

Talks on northern Iraq truce postponed

ANKARA (AFP) — A meeting between rival Iraqi Kurd factions and diplomats from Turkey, the United States and Britain which was due to have taken place Friday has been postponed for a week, officials said. Representatives from the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), together with members of northern Iraq's Turcoman community, were expected to join on-going talks aimed at setting up a system for monitoring the ceasefire in northern Iraq. Sources close to the talks said the meeting in Ankara was put off because the KDP team had not received instructions from the organisation's political bureau. The six partners make up the supervisory peace monitoring group, which was set up under the terms of an Oct. 31 peace accord between the KDP and PUK.

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King, Crown Prince meets Turkish air force chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday met with the chief of the Turkish air force, Lieutenant-General Ahmet Chiroci, and discussed means to promote defence cooperation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan earlier met with the Turkish air force commander during a visit he paid to the General Headquarters. The visit of the senior Turkish defence official to Amman was ahead of a visit on Monday by Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller, already postponed twice before.

Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and institutions will observe a holiday on Thursday on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, an official statement issued by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said.

Slaves freed in Sudan by NGO

GENEVA (AFP) — Some 58 women and children slaves were freed from more than 18-months slavery at the end of October in Sudan, Christian Solidarity International (CSI), a non-governmental organisation (NGO), announced here Friday. CSI said in a press release the slaves had been captured in January and February 1995 during raids conducted by Sudanese government forces in the Bahr Al Ghazal province. CSI paid almost three million Sudanese pounds (\$20,000) to an Arab trader to free them, it said. "The 50,000 Sudanese pound price for each slave is roughly equivalent of the local cost of two or three cows," the press release said.

Turkish troops kill 35 in northern Iraq

ISTANBUL (AFP) — Turkish troops killed 35 Kurdish rebels and wounded 45 others during a raid into northern Iraq Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said. The guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were hiding out in a cave that was attacked by Turkish troops, she said. Mrs. Ciller also said the Turkish forces "just barely missed Ocalan." She did not say if she was referring to PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, who usually lives in Damascus, Syria or the Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, or his brother Osman, who generally lives in northern Iraq. Mrs. Ciller said that six associates of Ocalan were killed during the raid including a goz, a high-ranking member of the PKK.

Saudi executed for murdering six

RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi national convicted of murdering six people was beheaded by sword on Friday in the northwestern town of Tabuk, the Saudi Interior Ministry said. Ahmad Tahar Al Mijrashi shot and killed six workmates after a dispute, and injured a seventh, said a ministry statement put out by Radio Riyadh. The execution was the 48th carried out since the beginning of the year in Saudi Arabia, which applies strict Islamic law. In 1995 a record 191 people were executed in the kingdom.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

King pardons Shbeilat

HM, in special decree, says Shbeilat's detention weighed heavily on his mind and decision to free him was taken to honour the Shbeilat family

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Friday pardoned outspoken critic Leith Shbeilat after serving seven months for lese majeste charges.

The King, who drove Mr. Shbeilat in his own car from Swaga prison to Mr. Shbeilat's mother's house, said the decision was taken in honour of his deceased father, Farhan Shbeilat, his mother, and his brother Senator Gaith Shbeilat.

It was the second time Mr. Shbeilat was pardoned by the King. In 1992, he was sentenced to 20 years in prison for sedition and was freed immediately following a general pardon that was endorsed by the Lower House of Parliament. This time however, he received a special pardon, which the King issued, using his constitutional prerogative.

In a letter addressed to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti the King regretted that Mr. Shbeilat, who was detained on Dec. 9, had harmed not only the Hashemite family but also "the memory of his father" and the country "that I represent."

"I would like you to consider this letter as a decree to order the immediate release of Mr. Shbeilat. It is our wish to pardon him and to consider the (seven-month) period he spent in prison as sufficient," the King said.



Leith Shbeilat, who was freed on Friday after a pardon issued by His Majesty King Hussein, poses with his mother at her house shortly after his release (photo by Yousef Allan)

"I have made my decision in honour of his mother, and in honour of his brother Senator Gaith Shbeilat, and in honour of his wife and children. It is in commemoration of his late father, who was like an uncle and a friend to me until he passed away."

Mr. Shbeilat, president of the Engineers Association, was sentenced on March 17 to three years in prison for

slandering Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. He was also convicted of distributing statements that are harmful to the King. The charges against Mr. Shbeilat were based on several lectures he delivered in different parts of the Kingdom in which he forthrightly criticised the Hashemite family, accusing its mem-

bers of treachery. "God knows that the detention period of Leith was so heavy on me as it was on him and his family," the King said in his letter to the prime minister. "I thank God, am not one who holds grudges. But this time, he overdid it. He inflicted harm on the Hashemite family, beginning with Hussein Ben Ali, the martyr of Arab right in Palestine, and King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the martyr of Al Aqsa Mosque, and (myself) and (my) family."

"(It was not a harm directed at the King) personally but against what I represent in this country and the history of the people."

"He had therefore, may God forgive him, caused harm to the memory of his father, who was one of the prominent men of the country, fully trusted by King Abdullah and his grandson (King Hussein). He caused harm to his family, to all people who come from his city Tafleeh. Those people who accompanied the Arab revolutionary, Sharif Hussein, the son of the Prophet Mohammad's daughter in his Great Arab Revolt and the companions of Zeid, his son and King Abdullah and his grandson King Hussein. The past is forgiven. May God guide us to the path of righteousness, faith and goodness in word and deed," the King said.

Mr. Shbeilat, an ardent-

(Continued on page 7)

Nigerian 727 crashes with 141 aboard; no survivors

LAGOS (AP) — A Nigerian airliner carrying 141 people crashed into swamps east of Lagos after losing contact with air traffic controllers, and all on board were believed dead, aviation officials said Friday.

About 24 hours after the Boeing 727 disappeared, wreckage was found in the village of Imota about 65 kilometres southeast of Lagos, said Aviation Minister Iba Udoh Umeh.

"From the information I have, it would seem the plane just plunged into the lagoon," he told reporters. Rescuers said the plane's tail was visible from the air, sticking out of the muddy crash scene.

The passengers included at least six Britons. It was not immediately known if other foreigners were on board.

Six helicopters, most belonging to foreign oil companies, joined Nigerian police, aviation authorities and soldiers in the search, which had focused on the sea off Lagos and swamps around the city.

Controllers at Lagos' Murtala Mohammed airport lost contact with the plane at 5:05 p.m.

(1605 GMT) Thursday. Sources quoted by the News Agency of Nigeria said the pilot had alerted the airport to prepare for an emergency landing just before he vanished.

The lost plane belonged to Aviation Development Corporation (ADC), one of several private commercial airlines operating in Nigeria. Last year, ADC was rated Nigeria's best airline based in part on its fatality-free record.

An ADC DC-9 crash-landed in July 1995 at the airport in the Liberian capital, Monrovia. None of the 90 people on board was hurt.

Relatives of people on board gathered at the airline's offices throughout the night and early Friday awaiting final word.

Nigeria does not have a quick-response search and rescue agency to handle emergencies, although demands for such an agency were raised in 1992 after a military transport plane crashed and killed all 163 people on board.

It took searchers more than 24 hours to reach the wreckage, even though it plunged into swamps just outside of Lagos.

U.S. officials reject theory that 'friendly fire' downed TWA 800

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Pentagon officials Friday denied a claim that a U.S. Navy warship fired a missile that downed TWA Flight 800 over New York in July.

A navy official who declined to be identified said the claim of a missile fired from a U.S. warship is "an old theory" and that investigators "looked thoroughly into that."

Pierre Salinger, a former aide to U.S. President John Kennedy, said in France Thursday that he had been given the information by someone with close links to the U.S. government.

But the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in New York, which has been working

with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in investigating the crash, said it had no evidence to indicate the Paris-bound plane explosion was caused by "friendly fire."

The navy official said the USS Normandy was the closest U.S. warship to the scene of the crash, about 300 kilometres to the south. It was conducting "routine exercises" and did not fire any missiles, the official said.

Mr. Kallstrom urged Mr. Salinger to turn over the document to the FBI "as soon as possible."

Mr. Salinger refused to disclose to the Associated Press who wrote the document, except to say that he got it from "a person who got it from a person in the secret service."

Mr. Salinger, who served as press secretary for President Kennedy, spoke in a telephone interview from his hotel in Cannes. Earlier Thursday, he made his claims public in a speech to a meeting of airline industry officials.

"The truth must come out," Mr. Salinger told some 150 executives of the

(Continued on page 7)

Sharaa thinks talks with Israel will resume

PARIS (AFP) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Friday it was likely that peace talks between his country and Israel would resume at the beginning of next year after being suspended since February. "We cannot say how and when" these talks would resume but "it is probable that the (peace process) will gain momentum early next year," he said following talks with his French counterpart Mr. Herve de Charette. Mr. Sharaa's surprise visit to Paris is in response to an invitation by Mr. de Charette, less than three weeks after French President Jacques Chirac made a highly publicized and controversial tour of the Middle East. Mr. Sharaa is to meet with Mr. Chirac on Saturday.



MAMMOTH TUSK: An archaeologist inspects a giant 3.5-metre mammoth tusk (Mammuthus Trogontheri) weighing around 150 kilograms discovered near the northern Serbian town of Kikinda in September 1996. The five-metre tall mammoth fossil, the first complete discovery of its kind in Yugoslavia, was found at a depth of around 20 metres and is believed to be at least 40,000 years old (Reuters photo)

Puerto Rico-style status for Palestinians — Netanyahu

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proposes a limited sovereignty like in Andorra or Puerto Rico as a final status for the Palestinian territories, the newspaper Haaretz reported on Friday.

"In the framework of a final settlement, I foresee for the Palestinians a status similar to that of the residents of Puerto Rico or the principality of Andorra," he said at a meeting with ambassadors posted in Israel.

The right-wing leader reiterated his opposition to "recognition by Israel of a right to self-determination for the Palestinians because that would imply the right to create a truly independent state."

"A large majority of Israelis rule out this prospect because even those who are ready to accept a Palestinian state alongside Israel want this state to be disarmed, something which is incompatible with real independence," he said.

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Shimon Peres, the Israeli opposition leader and architect of the peace process, said Friday that his dream of a "new Middle East" remains alive despite the present climate in the region.

"The arrival in power of the right (in Israel) has made things much more difficult," the former prime minister said in an interview with AFP ahead of next week's regional economic conference in Cairo.

"(But) the 'new Middle East', founded on the basis of peace and regional economic development, is not dead," added Mr. Peres, who was defeated by right-wing Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel's May general elections. "The peace process has to move forward on two legs — one political and the other economic," the Labour Party leader said. "The political leg may be in a cast but even so, it is still possible to move forward."

Mr. Peres was a prime mover behind the holding of the two previous Middle East economic conferences — in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994 and Amman in 1995 — and has supported the creation of a common market for the Middle East.

The atmosphere for the economic conference to be held in Cairo from November 12 to 14 is markedly different from that of the previous two, however, because of the current deadlock in the peace process and Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Mr. Netanyahu said at the meeting on Monday that he wants a level of Palestinian autonomy to allow them "to run their own affairs, while security remains in the hands of Israel."

Puerto Rico in the Caribbean is a U.S. territory. Its residents have U.S. citizenship but not the right to vote in American legislative or presidential elections.

The principality of Andorra has a special status under the joint suzerainty of France and a bishop in Spain, the two countries it straddles.

In a survey published by Tel Aviv University this week, most Jews said they were opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, by a 52-41 per cent margin.

Palestinian demands

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has given Mr. Netanyahu a list of four basic demands which need

to be fulfilled to unblock the stalled peace talks.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat said he handed Mr. Arafat's letter over to Dan Shomron, the head Israeli negotiator, when members of both sides met on Wednesday in a bid to jump start talks on the Hebron redeployment.

"I gave Mr. Shomron a letter from Mr. Arafat for the Israeli prime minister which contained four fundamental demands with regard to the peace process," Mr. Erakat told AFP.

He said the letter demanded Mr. Netanyahu continue negotiations on Hebron until an accord is reached, start talks on other parts of the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace track, put an immediate stop to Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories and set a date for the start of negotiations aimed at determining the final status of those territories.

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton poised to make major cabinet changes; many bow out

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton was set to name a new chief-of-staff Friday as the cards were being reshuffled in the White House for his second term in office.

A senior administration official said the new chief deputy would be Erskine Bowles, who has been a top White House aide, replacing the departing Leon Panetta.

Clinton aides have said the president wants to put his immediate White House staff in place even before replacing the many cabinet members leaving the administration, to make the transition easier.

Labour Secretary Robert Reich, meanwhile joined the exodus of senior administration figures, saying he was unable to juggle the competing demands of the job and his family life.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher's departure was formally announced Thursday; but several other cabinet members are expected to be on their way out.

These include Defence Secretary William Perry, Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, Energy

Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Housing and Urban Affairs Secretary Henry Cisneros and Transportation Secretary Federico Pena.

Some reports suggest Education Secretary Richard Riley may leave as Mr. Clinton wipes the slate clean for his new administration following his reelection victory Tuesday.

The president, reflecting on apparent divided voter sentiment following the reelection of a Democratic president and a Republican-led Congress, has said he may draw from Republicans and independents in his second term.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said it would require some time to name a replacement for Mr. Christopher at the State Department and that several candidates were being considered.

But Stephen Hess, a presidential expert at the Brookings Institution, said Mr. Clinton should act swiftly to name his key foreign policy aides, particularly with the president's first post-election foreign trip coming up Nov. 18-26.

"It seems sensible to move quickly on these things, especially in the national security field," Mr. Hess said. "Because of the trip to Asia, he should have the team in place before he leaves."

Mr. Christopher is to hold talks in Cairo next week with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa on the Middle East peace process. The sources said Mr. Christopher would head the U.S. delegation to the Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Cairo on Tuesday. The conference runs from Nov. 12 to 14.

President Clinton accepted Mr. Christopher's resignation on Thursday, Christopher is to step down on Jan. 20 when Mr. Clinton is inaugurated for his second term.

President Clinton made the announcement at a White House event in which he paid tribute to Mr. Christopher, who served as Washington's diplomat-in-chief for four years.

"Being secretary of state is to take part in history's relay race," Mr. Christopher said.

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Hariri wins free hand on economy but loses political grip on cabinet

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri has formed a government which reflects his determination to push ahead with ambitious post-war reconstruction but failed to keep a political grip on the cabinet.

The billionaire prime minister, after nearly two weeks of wrangling with other top officials over government portfolios and whether the opposition should be represented, formed his third cabinet on Thursday night.

Mr. Hariri has stressed since his Oct. 24 re-appointment after legislative elections that he will continue the "Horizon 2000" reconstruction plan, costing some \$18 billion, for Lebanon to recover from the 1975-1990 civil war.

In the new government line-up, Mr. Hariri retained the finance portfolio which he held in the two previous cabinets and took over the posts and communication ministry, which is to be privatised.

Close aide Fuad Siniora stays on as state minister for financial affairs while the premier's supporters

also retained the ministries of information, justice, transport, municipal affairs, administrative reforms and public works.

The big guns of the previous cabinet held onto their portfolios — Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, Defence Minister Mohsen Dallul, Interior Minister Michel Murr, Justice Minister Bahige Tabbara and Commerce Minister Yassin Jaber.

But Mr. Hariri failed in his bid to form a closely-knit political team, free of opposition figures and internal disputes. Several of his detractors have been appointed ministers.

President Elias Hrawi and Parliament speaker Nabih Berri refused to allow the prime minister to monopolise the political arena and managed to increase their influence in the cabinet.

The opposition within the cabinet focuses on the minister for expatriate affairs, Talal Arslan. Tourism Minister Nicolas Fattouh and Health Minister Suleiman Franjeh.

Mr. Franjeh was in Mr. Hariri's first government but dropped when the prime minister formed the

Woman cleared of car-bomb attack on Israeli embassy

The Times of London

THE CASE against a housewife accused of planting a car bomb outside the Israeli embassy in London in a bid to destroy the Middle East peace talks on Nov. 4 when a judge described evidence as suspect.

Nadia Zekra, a mother of two who was said to have left an Audi car parked outside the building and walked off carrying a Harrods bag, wept as she begged her husband and friends outside the Old Bailey.

Mr. Justice Garland accepted a defence submission that Mrs. Zekra, 49, who had denied causing the explosion in July 1994, had no case to answer after a month of prosecution evidence. The judge said that identification evidence was "fraught with pitfalls." He said also that evidence by a police constable on duty at the embassy was "suspect with serious inconsistencies."

He added: "It would be dangerous to the extreme to allow this case to go before a jury. I have no hesitation in discharging this case."

The jury will be directed today to return a not guilty verdict on the charge against Mrs. Zekra and to continue considering the case against her three co-defendants.

Outside the court, Mrs. Zekra, of West Kensington, London, said: "I was sure I would not be convicted. I just want to be with my family now and have time



Nadia Zekra

on my own. My family my sons — we all suffered deeply. The time in prison was worst of all."

The court has been told that a gang of upper-class Palestinian terrorists planted two car bombs in London. The embassy explosion on July 26 was followed by one in Finchley David Calvert-Smith, QC, for the prosecution, said the blasts were organised by the self-styled Palestinian Resistance Jaffa Group Palestine and claimed that Mrs. Zekra was part of the group.

Opening the case, he said there was "a tremendous explosion" in which the windows of every house, shop and car within a radius of a few hundred yards were shattered. People inside the embassy and outside on the street were thrown to the ground.

"Astoundingly no one was dead," he said, although the Finchley bomb, outside

Balfour House, which belonged to the Jewish Philanthropic Organisation for Israel and the Middle East, had almost killed three occupants of a passing car.

Jawad Botmeh, 28, of Bloomsbury, London, Samar Alami, 30, of South Kensington, and Mahmoud Abu Wardeh, 25, of Putney, southwest London, deny conspiracy to cause explosions; possession of a dangerous substance; and possession of three handguns.

Now, she's been given back her identity as Nadia Zekra opera fan and housewife with a taste for Pavarotti and a lot of anger. She says came close to breaking point several times in her four months' imprisonment.

They came straight to her bedroom that January morning and she woke to the words: "We are charged with the bombing of the Israeli embassy on July 26, 1994 and with collaborating in the bombing of Balfour House on July 27."

She sat up in bed in her nightdress and called her husband, Ahmad, aged 54, who had already been banished to the lounge with their son, Nadeem. She never got a chance to say goodbye to them.

"I suppose I was in shock for those first hours. I just thought this is a terrible mistake and all I have to do is to tell them everything they want to know."

Yesterday, 24 hours after the Old Bailey judge had thrown out the case against her, she was fielding calls from well-wishers.

"The worst moment was when I arrived in Holloway and they admitted me and made me put all my clothes in a plastic bag."

"All these people banging on the door shouting 'which embassy did you bomb?' I just cried and cried. They were nice to me there, I think they felt sorry for me because I was always crying."

Four and half months later bail was granted and fixed at £500,000. "It took about 10 days for my husband to raise the money among all our friends. Those last 10 days were the worst. I was desperate to get out and I just kept saying to myself this is all going to end as fast and as suddenly as it began."

Iran wants French airliners, satellites, maybe beef—minister

PARIS (AFP) — Iran wants to buy 10 Airbus airliners, and French communications satellites costing more than \$500 million, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi said here on Friday.

Iran was also interested in buying French beef, he said, and quoted the French foreign minister as saying that France would ignore the U.S. Amato act to prevent companies from investing in the Iranian hydrocarbons industry.

He also revealed that the quasi French state export-credit guarantee department, COFACE, had resumed coverage for exports to Iran from September.

It had suspended such coverage in 1993, and Mr. Vaezi said that settlement in July of a dispute over a debt of \$120 million owed by Iran to the French car manufacturer Peugeot had opened the way for export insurance.

"We plan to buy satellites costing more than \$500 million, and we are ready to buy 10 Airbus airliners," he said at the end of a two-day official visit here.

France and Iran were negotiating "big economic projects" which raised the prospects of a "fruitful future" for economic relations between the two countries, he told journalists.

These concerns gas and oil, the purchase of aircraft, beef and communications equipment.

Iran was also negotiating with the French oil company ELF which had sent a delegation to Iran three weeks ago.

During his visit he had noted "a firm desire that economic cooperation should develop."

Mr. Vaezi, who met French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette on Thursday, said that Mr. De Charette had said he wanted France to become "Iran's biggest economic trading partner."

France wanted to develop bilateral relations without taking any account of U.S. measures to penalise European companies investing in hydrocarbons industries in Iran and Libya.

This was seen as a reference to the so-called U.S. Amato act. "On our side, also, we want to see a big increase in our trade," with France, he said.

Jordan hopes to reopen Kuwaiti embassy soon

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A special envoy sent from Jordan to Kuwait to help improve relations said in an interview on Thursday that he hoped Amman would open an embassy in Kuwait city soon.

Ibrahim Nabulsi, an envoy sent by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, handed over a letter on bilateral ties to Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on Tuesday.

When asked by Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai Al Am in an interview published on Thursday if he expected a Jordanian Embassy to be opened soon, Mr. Nabulsi said: "This is what we hope."

"Jordan's embassy in Kuwait has been closed since the Iraqi invasion in 1990."

"Jordan rejects the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait and it is impossible to accept the oppression by a big neighbour on a small brother," Mr. Nabulsi told the paper.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 27 Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent. Aqaba 36 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Khalil Jibali 740740 Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848 Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485 Dr. Youssef Rashid 896301 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdous pharmacy 778336 Al Asma pharmacy 637055 Nairookh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shamsani pharmacy 637660 Najib pharmacy 847632

Dr. Ahmad Qano 281484 Dr. Walid Haneesh 982799 Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swedish aid minister due in Mideast

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Sweden's minister for development aid Pierre Schori is to visit Israel and the Palestinian territories of Gaza and the West Bank on Sunday through Wednesday, a government spokesman said. In Israel, Mr. Schori is to meet with Foreign Minister David Levy, before seeing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Gaza where an agreement on cooperation is to be signed with the Palestinian National Authority. Mr. Schori will then go to Ramallah, on the West Bank, and see Palestinian Council Speaker Ahmad Qoreia, Culture and Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo, Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi and minister without portfolio Faisal Hussein, the Swedish foreign ministry said.

Libyan diplomat charged with drug-trafficking

VALETTA (AFP) — A Libyan diplomat accredited in Turkey and a Tunisian woman were charged with drug-trafficking here Thursday, Maltese police said. Ramadan Ahmed Suleiman Kheddeda, 52, and Marzuki Hashemi Beya, 38, were arrested Monday after arriving on the island on a flight from Istanbul. Ms. Beya was found with five packets of heroin, containing 200 grammes in total, in her clothing. But she said he was carrying the drug for the Libyan diplomat. The head of the Maltese drug-squad, Michael Cassar, said that police had been monitoring the frequent comings and goings of visitors from Turkey, Bulgaria and Tunisia.

Turkish trial of police transferred

ANKARA (R) — The trial of police officers in connection with the killing of a Turkish journalist is to be transferred to the western town of Afyon because of security concerns, the state-run Anatolian news agency said on Friday. The trial began in the southwestern town of Aydin last month under the critical eye of Turkey's Western allies and rights workers. "In the vicinity of the court where the case was heard, there are many schools and for this reason providing security would be difficult," the criminal court in Aydin was quoted as saying in a statement by

Anatolian. Forty-eight police officers were charged in connection with the killing in January of Mevlut Goktepe, who was alleged to have been battered to death by police in Istanbul. Goktepe was among scores of people rounded up at random for an identity check in Eyyup sports complex after the funerals of two far-left militant prisoners.

Iran slams small international aid

DUBAI (R) — Iran has slammed low levels of international aid given to Tehran to help two million Iraqi and Afghan refugees taking shelter in the Islamic republic. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American affairs Mahmoud Vaezi told French Ministry for Emergency Humanitarian Action Xavier Emmanuelli in Paris that the amount of aid it received did not meet the actual needs of refugees, the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said on Thursday night. IRNA said France promised Mr. Vaezi it would offer more humanitarian aid before winter. Many live in cold mountain camps with little food or water. Iran is home to two million refugees, 1.4 million from Afghanistan and 600,000 from Iraq, making it the world's most important host country, according to U.N. relief agencies.

Italian sideswipes Israeli policeman

TEL AVIV (R) — An Italian diplomat trying to drive from Israel into the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip on Thursday struck and lightly wounded an Israeli border policeman with his car, Israeli security sources said. The sources said the Italian vice-consul drove up to the Beit Hanoun checkpoint between Israel and self-ruled Gaza and handed his identification card to an Israeli border policeman for a routine check. "The vice-consul got out of his car and snatched his card from the policeman's hand. He then got back in his car, started it quickly, and tried to cross the checkpoint without undergoing a border police check," one source said. "He hit a border policeman with his car and lightly wounded him. He was taken to hospital for treatment," the source added. The incident was under investigation, the source added. Italian embassy officials declined immediate comment.

Turkish interior minister resigns

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said on Friday that Interior Minister Mehmet Agar had handed in his resignation in a scandal over alleged links between the police and organised crime.

"Mehmet Agar has given his resignation," Mr. Erbakan told reporters.

Mr. Erbakan said he had accepted the resignation. Mr. Agar is at the centre of a scandal that has unravelled since a police chief, a wanted gangster and a former-beauty queen died in the same car in a traffic accident last weekend.

A government member of parliament who runs a Kurdish tribal militia that fights separatist guerrillas in the southeast was in the car and is seriously injured in hospital.

Mr. Agar, a right-winger, is a member of Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) coalition partner.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:05	The Adventures of Mickey and Donald
14:30	Cirque
15:00	Doc — La France Aux Mille Villages
15:30	Fete des Bebes
16:00	Sports — Gillette
16:30	Chris Cross
17:00	News Flash
17:01	Futures
17:15	Drama — Blue Heelers
18:00	Series — Jack
19:00	Le Journal
19:15	Magazine — Ziva
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	Comedy — Something Wilder
20:00	Doc — Gardens of the World
20:30	Prism
21:10	Lois and Clark
22:00	News in English
22:25	The Maharajah's Daughter
23:15	Feature Film: "Soylent Green"

PRAYER TIMES	
04:35	Fajr
05:54	(Sunrise) Duha
11:19	Dhuhr
14:19	Asr
16:45	Maghreb
18:04	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 624590

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<p>Terraced Church Tel. 622366</p> <p>Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541</p> <p>Anglican Church Tel. 652826</p> <p>Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331</p> <p>Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261</p> <p>St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751</p> <p>Arman International Church Tel. 827125</p> <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328</p> <p>German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457</p> <p>The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932</p> <p>Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691</p> <p>The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295</p> <p>English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190</p>	<p>Deserts 08:23</p> <p>Jordan Valley 15:28</p> <p>Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 27 Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent. Aqaba 36 per cent.</p> <p>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</p> <p>NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Khalil Jibali 740740 Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848 Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485 Dr. Youssef Rashid 896301 Firas pharmacy 661912 Ferdous pharmacy 778336 Al Asma pharmacy 637055 Nairookh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shamsani pharmacy 637660 Najib pharmacy 847632</p> <p>Dr. Ahmad Qano 281484 Dr. Walid Haneesh 982799 Khalil pharmacy 985417</p> <p>EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341</p>	<p>Civil Defence Emergency 199</p> <p>Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777</p> <p>Fire Brigade 617101</p> <p>Blood Bank 775121</p> <p>Highway Police 843402</p> <p>Traffic Police 896390</p> <p>Public Security Department 630321</p> <p>Hotel Complaints 605800</p> <p>Price Complaints 661176</p> <p>Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467</p> <p>Amman Municipality Complaints 787111</p> <p>Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121</p> <p>Overseas Calls 010230</p> <p>Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101</p> <p>Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101</p> <p>Jordan Television 773111</p> <p>Radio Jordan 774111</p> <p>Water Authority 680100</p> <p>Jordan Electricity Authority 815615</p> <p>Electric Power Company 636381</p> <p>RJ Flight Information 08-53200</p> <p>Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200</p>	<p>Akleh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2</p> <p>Jabal Amman Maternity 642362</p> <p>Malhas, J. Amman 636140</p> <p>Palestine, Shmeisani 607071</p> <p>Shmeisani Hospital 669131</p> <p>University Hospital 845845</p> <p>Al-Musasher Hospital 6672719</p> <p>The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37</p> <p>Al-Abil, Abdali 6641646</p> <p>Italian, Al-Mohajreen 777101/3</p> <p>Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26</p> <p>Army, Marka 891611/15</p> <p>Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50</p> <p>Amal Hospital 674155</p> <p>The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199</p> <p>ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323</p> <p>Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560</p> <p>Don Sima Hospital (09)986732</p> <p>Al Hikam Modern Hospital (09)990990</p> <p>IRBIT: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555</p> <p>Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275</p> <p>Don Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100</p> <p>AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111</p>	<p>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</p> <p>This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (06) 52700 or (06) 523250.</p> <p>ARRIVALS</p> <p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights</p> <p>08:55 ...Munich (RJ)</p> <p>09:45 ...Damascus (RJ)</p> <p>09:45 ...New Delhi (RJ)</p> <p>09:55 ...Karachi, Dubai (RJ)</p> <p>10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)</p> <p>10:30 ...Colombo (RJ)</p> <p>14:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)</p> <p>16:20 ...Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>17:40 ...London, Berlin (RJ)</p> <p>20:45 ...Vienna (RJ)</p> <p>21:30 ...Paris (add) (RJ)</p> <p>23:25 ...Munich (RJ)</p> <p>19:35 ...Vienna (add) (RJ)</p> <p>05:35 ...Bangkok (RJ)</p> <p>Other Flights</p> <p>12:40 ...Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)</p> <p>15:05 ...Vienna (OS)</p> <p>18:15 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)</p> <p>21:00 ...Paris, Damascus (AF)</p> <p>22:20 ...Larnaca (CY)</p> <p>22:25 ...Beirut (ME)</p> <p>22:35 ...Cairo (MS)</p> <p>23:40 ...Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)</p> <p>23:50 ...London (KJ)</p>	<p>01:00 ...London, Damascus (BA)</p> <p>03:45 ...Rome (AZ)</p> <p>06:20 ...Tel Aviv (LY)</p> <p>Royal Wings (RW) Flights</p> <p>09:20 ...Aqaba (RW)</p> <p>DEPARTURES</p> <p>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights</p> <p>06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)</p> <p>11:00 ...Aqaba, Paris, Brussels (RJ)</p> <p>11:05 ...Vienna (RJ)</p> <p>11:30 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)</p> <p>12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)</p> <p>12:15 ...London (RJ)</p> <p>12:15 ...Cairo (RJ)</p> <p>20:00 ...Bombay (RJ)</p> <p>20:05 ...Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)</p> <p>20:15 ...Bahrain, Doha (RJ)</p> <p>20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)</p> <p>20:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)</p> <p>21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)</p> <p>Other Flights</p> <p>00:15 ...Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)</p> <p>03:00 ...Beirut, Athens (OA)</p> <p>07:00 ...Beirut (ME)</p> <p>13:30 ...Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)</p> <p>15:50 ...Vienna (OS)</p> <p>19:15 ...Dubai (EK)</p> <p>23:10 ...Larnaca (CY)</p> <p>23:30 ...Cairo (MS)</p> <p>23:55 ...Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (AF)</p> <p>00:40 ...Amsterdam (AZ)</p> <p>04:35 ...Rome (AZ)</p> <p>06:30 ...London (KJ)</p>	<p>Royal Wings (RW) Flights</p> <p>20:50 ...Aqaba (RW)</p> <p>HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN</p> <p>Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday</p> <p>Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday</p> <p>Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday</p> <p>Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday</p> <p>MARKET PRICES</p> <p>Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.</p> <p>Apple 700/550</p> <p>Banana 550/500</p> <p>Banana (imported) 800/600</p> <p>Cabbage 100/80</p> <p>Carrot 260/150</p> <p>Cauliflower 240/180</p> <p>Cucumber (large) 180/120</p> <p>Cucumber (small) 350/250</p> <p>Eggplant 170/100</p> <p>Garlic 700/500</p> <p>Grapes 450/300</p> <p>Guava 400/300</p> <p>Lemon 350/100</p> <p>Marrow (large) 200/120</p> <p>Marrow (small) 300/200</p> <p>Onion (green) 300/160</p> <p>Onion (dry) 130/80</p> <p>Olive (green) 500/450</p> <p>Olive (black) 800/500</p> <p>Orange 580/480</p> <p>Pear 500/400</p> <p>Pepper (hot) 300/250</p> <p>Pepper (sweet) 250/180</p> <p>Potato 340/240</p> <p>Spinach 250/100</p> <p>String Bean 470/330</p> <p>Tomato 280/180</p>
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Queen meets with World Bank delegation to discuss tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaidat and President of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) Dr. Fayez Khasawneh Thursday met with a World Bank delegation at Al Ma'wa Palace to discuss the ministry's comprehensive investment-tourism programme, a Royal Court statement said.

The programme is in the final appraisal stage and includes strengthening the coordinating role of the Tourism of Ministry between the different ministries and the private sector, expanding the infrastructure in Petra, Jerash, Aqaba and Kerak as well as developing Wadi Rum as a tourist venue, under the "Special Status Category".

Queen Noor emphasised the importance of intersectoral cooperation and partnership between the government, the national coalition of non-governmental environmental and cultural heritage organisations as well as local communities especially during the on-going discussions to develop and finalise the programme.

Head of the World Bank mission Tufan Kolan, said the programme "aims at ensuring an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable development of the tourism sector in Jordan," the statement said.

She added that its three main objectives were "sustainability, integrating tourism development with local communities ... and developing tourism attractions around Jordan."

The policy of the World Bank, which has a key role in Jordan's economic planning and implementation in terms of extending material and technical assistance, is to help countries maintain, enhance and restore their cultural heritage, whose conservation is an essential part of the sustainable development process.

Tufan Kolan, Nicole Glineur, Mohammad Feghoul and Peter Hammett attended the meeting with the Queen.

Also Thursday, the Queen met with the Jordanian graduates of the "Seeds of Peace" Programme at Al Ma'wa Palace, a Royal Court statement said.

"Seeds of Peace" is a two-week summer camp programme in the United States for 12-14 year-old children from countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

The programme's main goal is to introduce Middle Eastern children to each other in the hope that their camping experience would forge lasting bonds of friendship and understanding between them.

Over the past two years, 30 Jordanian students from the Jubilee, Model, Ahliyyah, Amman National, Amman Academy and Baccalaureate schools participated in the "Seeds of Peace" camp.

"Seeds of Peace" Executive Director Barbara Gostchalk attended the meeting.

Later the Queen, who is Patron of the Royal Society of Fine Arts (RSFA), opened an international art exhibition from Holland entitled "Hond & Hamer: The effect of culture exchange on art," organised by RSFA and the Dutch "Arctic Foundation," at the Jordan National Gallery in Jebel Weibdeh.

"Hond & Hamer" is Dutch for "Dog and Hammer," the former referring to a school of philosophy affiliated to the Greek "Cynics," while the latter

relates to the philosophy of Nietzsche.

According to the exhibition's curator and Arctic Foundation founder Mr. Bert Hermens, the Hond & Hamer exhibition originated from a one-month workshop on print-making techniques which took place in 1993, when 24 artists from Holland, Greece, Lebanon, Curacao (a Caribbean island under Dutch rule), Iraq, Iran, Indonesia, Vietnam, Russia, Chile and Spain lived, interacted and worked together.

Mr. Hermens avowed fascination in seeing how artists from different cultural backgrounds approached print-making and the effect they had on each other.

The result of this workshop is an exhibition of multi-media works of art which range from an artificial shelter comprised of roof tops entitled "Home is where the heart is" to a "Mind expanding" print, comprising a superimposition of profiles on a text entitled "Intellect, the exercise of the mind, formation of ideas." The co-curator of the exhibition, Iraqi artist, Munkith Said persuaded the Arctic Foundation to show the exhibition in the Islamic World beginning with Jordan, where it will run until November 30 before moving to the United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.

The Arctic Foundation was established a year ago by a group of artists from the Netherlands "to promote new forms of art that originate from inter-cultural interaction."

The Queen was received by President of the Royal Society of Fine Arts, HRH Princess Wijdan Ali, Minister of Culture Ahmad Qudah, Bert Hermens and Munkith Said.

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American officials respond to growing concern about MENA conference

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — American officials Thursday attempted to ease doubts about prospects for a fruitful Middle East and North Africa economic conference, currently overshadowed by political uncertainties and plagued by disappointingly slow economic progress following last year's MENA conference in Amman.

Head of the International Trade Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Stuart Eizenstat told an audience in Amman via satellite on the Worldnet Dialogue, that the United States would be represented by its largest delegation of businessmen yet, in the upcoming conference.

The conference is scheduled for Nov. 13-15 in Cairo.

According to Mr. Eizenstat, the Department of Commerce has "spent months" recruiting the 250 U.S. businessmen (representing 120 American companies) designated to attend this year's conference.

"This is 100 more than we had attend [the Amman conference last year]," he said. "So there is definitely enthusiasm."

Mr. Eizenstat was joined by Under-secretary at the Department of Commerce Joan Spero who participated in the session, fielding questions from those slated to participate in the upcoming conference as well as community business leaders.

Enthusiasm for the conference began to wane after the election of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who has demonstrated an unwillingness to implement the peace process.

Jordanian businessmen have said that they will shun deals with Israelis if Israel fails to make progress in peace talks with the Palestinians. Palestinian industrialists last week said that they intend to boycott the conference in protest of the Israeli closure of Palestinian territories which has restricted their business and also last week the Union of Chambers of Commerce in Egypt said that it would not participate

"due to the presence of a large Israeli delegation." Neither are Syria and Lebanon participating, and Iraq, Jordan's largest trading partner prior to UN-imposed economic sanctions, was not invited.

However, Mr. Eizenstat said, "we do need to separate between political and economic progress."

"The peace process will always have ups and downs but business has to continue."

His argument did not appear to impress Jordanian participants in the satellite conference who asserted that since the signing of trade deals with both Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Israeli "security concerns" and other non-tariff barriers have inhibited successful economic ventures.

Mr. Eizenstat, who paid a visit to the region in August, said that following his visit, he had a sense of the problems and their lack of resolution. "When I came back [to the US] I briefed the State Department that the peace process needs stronger economic underpinnings."

He added that the U.S. was pressing the Israeli government "consistent to its security needs." However, he said, "we have not made as much progress as we would have liked."

According to Mr. Eizenstat, the U.S. wants to provide \$150-200 million of scanning equipment to Israel to be used at the borders between the territories and Israel in support of a free flow of goods.

Both officials also offered continuing support for UN-imposed economic sanctions against Iraq adding that the U.S. had been sensitive to their impact on the Jordanian economy and that the U.S. has gone to considerable lengths to help Jordan cope.

"We've helped Jordan re-open rich markets in the Gulf," said Ms. Spero. "We've helped open relations with Israel and recently we've tried to help in terms of foreign assistance with a \$200 million lending programme via EXIM Bank."

Ms. Spero countered criticism that U.S. efforts to bolster the Palestinian

economy were not as substantial as those offered in 1979 when Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty. The two countries today receive more than \$5 billion in direct assistance from the U.S.

"We are committed to promoting prosperity," said Ms. Spero. "We have maintained our assistance to Egypt and Israel, but we have increased our assistance to Jordan, and we have forgiven \$1 billion in debt."

The aid Jordan receives from the U.S., she said, is on a par with that received in Egypt in per capita terms.

"We are trying to get our own economic house in order," said Ms. Spero. "In reality we can no longer depend on a growing assistance budget."

"The Middle East cannot rely on external assistance — the route to growth is through economic reform, deregulation, privatisation and the development of capital markets."

British embassy clerk faces charges of fraud

LONDON (J.T.) — A British embassy clerk in Amman stole hundreds of thousands of pounds by claiming the pensions of dead British military and diplomatic staff, said an official report Friday, according to Agence France Presse (AFP).

The "scams" uncovered when records showed a loss of £330,000, was carried out by an accountant, formerly employed at the Amman embassy, over more than 20 years, according to the National Audit Office (NAO) report, AFP said.

The alleged swindler was named by British newspapers on Friday as 55-year-old Elias Zureik, a Jordanian, according to AFP.

An embassy official in Amman confirmed the report and told the Jordan Times Friday that the British authorities initially sought to prevent the incident from being publicised.

Mr. Zureik allegedly siphoned off the pensions between 1968 and 1989, and continued to do so even after being asked to resign from his post at the embassy for forging a signature in 1988, AFP quoted the NAO report as saying.

In three of the ten confirmed cases, the pensioners had been born in 1897, 1900 and 1903 respectively, AFP said.

It said that because Britain's overseas pensions department deals with pensions in alphabetical groups by name rather than by country, the coincidence of a relatively large number of very old pensioners in one location was not immediately noticeable.

According to AFP, Mr. Zureik now faces criminal charges in Jordan for fraud and embezzlement of the pensions of the dead Britons, who had been based in the Middle East.

He was released on bail in February this year but, because there is no appropriate treaty with Jordan, bringing him to trial in Britain was not considered practical by the Foreign Office, which is suing him through the civil courts, AFP said.

Kingdom prepares for visit of Indonesian leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian Ambassador to Indonesia Luay Khashman Friday announced that Jordan and Indonesia will sign three agreements during Indonesian President Suharto's visit to Jordan, due to begin Monday.

During the four-day state visit, President Suharto will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein to review regional and international issues of common concern.

The ambassador confirmed that ministers will sign three agreements: the first regarding investment guarantees, the second to prevent dual taxation and the third regarding maritime transportation between the countries.

Jordan and Indonesia maintain strong relations, he said, adding that President Suharto's visit is bound to further bolster economic and trade ties and cover issues, particularly those covering the Non-Aligned Movement of which the two countries are active members.

Mr. Khashman explained that Amman and Jakarta are linked by a direct air transport

agreement covering both countries' national airlines and making two weekly trips.

He said that the Jordanian-Indonesian joint economic and trade committee has been holding regular meetings to promote bilateral economic and trade links.

Elucidating upon the trade theme, the ambassador said that Jordan's exports of phosphate, potash and fertilisers have been on the increase since 1994 with Jordan exporting \$38.4 million worth of these products last year and importing a total of \$27.2 million worth of Indonesian timber, vegetable oil, textiles and clothing.

Earlier this week, Jordan and Indonesia initiated an agreement on maritime transport cooperation and announced that the agreement will be formally signed during President Suharto's visit.

The agreement provides for exchange of information and technical expertise as well as the intensification of contacts between transport-related companies and institutions in the two countries. It also specifies for each

country's provision of arrangements for docking vessels, preferential treatment and facilitating procedures at their respective harbours.

Mr. Khashman also said that Jordan and Indonesia signed an "agreement" in 1989 providing for student and university teacher exchanges as well as joint cultural activities.

More than 60 Indonesian students are currently enrolled at Jordanian universities studying Arabic and Islamic law, he said.

In 1988, the two countries signed a protocol for organising cooperation in youth, sports and in the information field which, the ambassador said, is paving the way for the two sides to prepare an agreement between the national news agencies.

According to Mr. Khashman, an Indonesian delegation will visit Jordan before the end of 1996 to formally conclude the agreement regarding information and other media exchanges.



HRH Princess Sarvath Al Hassan opens new offices in the International Baccalaureate Organisation in Cardiff, Wales (photo by Boghos)

Princess Sarvath opens curriculum office at International Baccalaureate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, on a recent trip to the U.K., opened the new Curriculum and Assessment offices of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) in Cardiff, Wales.

Princess Sarvath dedicated the building to Alec Peterson, the IBO's first Director General and "the moving force behind the establishment of both the organisation and the United World Colleges movement," a Royal Court statement said.

In her capacity as a member of the Council of Foundation of the International Baccalaureate Organisation, Princess Sarvath had inaugurated the previous IB Examinations Office in Cardiff in 1990.

She was also a member of the International Board of the United World Colleges (UWC) and established the Jordanian UWC National Selection Committee, which she chaired for 14 years.

The new IBO building, now officially known as

"Peterson House," was dedicated by the Princess in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayress of Cardiff as well as the IBO's Executive Committee, Heads of Schools Committee and staff.

In her address, Princess Sarvath stressed the need for the IBO to remain "relevant to the needs of an increasingly more exigent world, whilst holding true to the philosophy ... behind the programme's inception," and for its programmes to "continue to be at the forefront of pedagogical progress" while protecting the "worth and integrity of the IB diploma and certificates."

She also emphasised the importance of strengthening the international perspective and dimension of the IB, with specific reference to courses such as the "History and Culture of the Islamic World" which was first piloted at the Amman Baccalaureate School and another four schools around the world.

The Princess suggested

that "the IB has a wealth of resources that it can tap in its quest to become truly international, in spirit as well as in name. Being pragmatic in responding to the dictates of change in our world does not mean that we have to sacrifice... principals. If anything, the curriculum would be all the richer, and even truer to its beginnings if it were to diversify further."

During her visit to the U.K., Princess Sarvath also inaugurated the new Performing Arts Department at Channing School in Highgate, London and addressed the annual meeting of the General Assembly of Channing Association.

Channing is one of the oldest girls' schools in the U.K. Established in 1885, the school continues to be at the forefront of girls' education and boasts a list of distinguished "old girls" who have made their mark in public life, including Princess Sarvath.

What's Going On

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

A service of Remembrance will be held at the Church of the Redeemer at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of works by Zurich-based Jordanian artist Nabil Shehadeh at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by Jordanian artist Mohammad Nassrallah and works by contemporary artists, until Nov. 13.
- "Timeless Weaving and New Creations — Home Furnishings and Accessories" at the Jordan Crafts Development Centre (Al Aydi), Jabal Amman, Second Circle, until Nov. 10.
- Exhibition of "Visual Forms" by Abdul Latif Al Smoodi at Baladan Art Gallery, Gardens street, until Nov. 15.
- Works by Maha Abu Ghosh at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 16.
- Photography exhibition "Al Aqsa Uprisings" by Khalid Al Zaghawi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, until Nov. 22.

The Editor and staff of the Jordan Times offer sincere condolences to their friend and colleague

Jalal Al Azzeh

over the death of his mother

Husn Mohammad Othman Al Azzeh

May she rest in peace

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Renewed fighting endangers starving refugees in Zaire

GOMA, Zaire (Agencies) — Renewed fighting has broken out in eastern Zaire, where rebels declared a ceasefire this week, worsening the risks for hundreds of thousands of refugees already facing starvation and disease.

Witnesses said they heard artillery fire on Thursday evening west of rebel-held Goma, a hub town on the northern shore of Lake Kivu for camps which housed more than 700,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees, many of whom have fled.

The firing was in a region 20 kilometres from Goma, where returning residents who had left the town as rebels battled Zairean troops came under fire on Wednesday. At least 30 people were injured.

The rebels say Rwandan extremist Hutu militiamen, known as Interahamwe, and soldiers of the Rwandan former army, routed by a Tutsi front in 1994, remain in the region with Zairean government troops.

The gunfire died down later Thursday.

Armed Rwandans have been living among more than a million Hutu refugees who have been without food and medicine for more than a week after expatriate aid workers could not reach them and then evacuated

Goma. On Monday, the coordinator of the rebel alliance dominated by Tutsis who settled in Zaire from Rwanda, Laurent-Desire Kabila, announced a unilateral ceasefire for aid workers to help the refugees and enable Hutus who wanted to return to Rwanda to do so.

However, no relief has got to the refugees, who were said by some witnesses to be dying in their hundreds at sea bay on the shore of Lake Kivu after being prevented from fleeing further into Zaire by hunger and difficult volcanic terrain.

Diplomatic efforts were in hand to set up an international force to protect aid staff and open humanitarian corridors in eastern Zaire for aid and refugee movement.

An Italian diplomat in the region said Friday that he was negotiating with the Zairean rebels and indicated that the United Nations was also doing so to get humanitarian aid to the refugees.

"It's not just we who are negotiating, the United Nations also needs to establish contacts," said the Italian ambassador to Rwanda, Marcello Rigoveri, who is also accredited to Burundi and Uganda.

Mr. Rigoveri, asked about the arrival in Kigali

of a cargo plane with Italian supplies for the refugees, said negotiations were under way not only with the rebels but with Zairean and Rwandan authorities.

U.N. special mediator Raymond Chretien arrived in Kigali on Friday to discuss the "very, very urgent question of the refugees" with Rwandan authorities, whom Zaire accuses of backing the Tutsi rebels.

Some 220,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda and Burundi and displaced Zaireans are still in the region of Bukavu, south of Lake Kivu, which has also been seized by the rebels like Uvira further south, witnesses said Friday.

The rebels are trying to set up an administration in the three towns, appointing "political commissars" to explain their purpose, which includes the overthrow of President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The uprising, in which Tutsis have been joined by other ethnic groups, has led to student protests in the capital Kinshasa and calls for the resignation of Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo, who is accused of failing to give troops the resources to crush it.

In Bordeaux, French President Jacques Chirac and British Prime Minister John Major

agreed Friday to "coordinate their efforts closely" in a bid to ease the crisis, a joint statement said.

It said the priority was providing humanitarian relief, under the umbrellas of international organisations and within the framework of the U.N. Security Council and the European Union.

Mr. Chirac hoped to press Mr. Major to back a proposal for a 5,000-strong military intervention force in the region.

Mr. Major said there could be "possibly" be a British military presence but called for talks with the Organisation of African Unity. "Clearly it would be desirable if there was a large contingent of African troops," he said.

France on Thursday presented a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council to seek intervention over a two-month period, combining proposals by Paris and Bonn. Troops would be allowed to use force in self-defence.

However, several Security Council members expressed reservations. Some, including the United States and Britain, fear that such intervention could end up being permanent and emphasise the repatriation of refugees instead.

In Ottawa, the Canadian foreign ministry issued a statement urging the U.N.

to "deploy a neutral force to ensure the establishment of safe humanitarian corridors" in eastern Zaire.

"Canada is prepared to consider how these corridors could be protected." In Rome, the World Food Programme (WFP) more than 80,000 children under the age of three could die in eastern Zaire in the next three weeks unless humanitarian aid corridors are opened to starving refugees.

"People are already starting to die and we estimate that by the end of the month over 80,000 children under three will die," Catherine Bertini, WFP executive director told Reuters in an interview.

Ms. Bertini also said there was an "absolute, immediate need for humanitarian corridors to be opened and for us to be able to move food through."

"Military intervention is one solution but the local governments could also agree to allow this to happen and those political agreements are not yet in place," she said.

Rwanda has said it is opposed to French participation in a U.N. humanitarian force to open aid corridors for over a million Rwandan and Burundian refugees trapped in fighting in eastern Zaire.



A Zairean student pays his last respects to a student during a funeral ceremony as unrest in the capital continues. Students carrying coffins of two dead colleagues flooded the parliament building demanding the fall of part-Tutsi Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo (Reuters photo)

Japan's government has rocky start

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new government got off to a rocky start Friday with complaints it was "too old-fashioned" and "too much of a compromise" between the two main political parties.

In a separate potential disruption, United States Ambassador Walter Mondale announced his retirement after guiding ties with Japan for three years.

Opposition politicians and some editorialists faulted Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's choice of mainly veterans to fill his new 20-member cabinet, saying it suggested he was taking the country back to politics as usual. There were also charges of nepotism as three ministers are relatives of former prime ministers.

For the first time in three years, cabinet members came only from Mr. Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which was thrown out of power in 1993 after corruption scandals.

It came back to government a year later in a coalition and in Oct. 20 elections became the country's biggest party but fell 12 seats short of a parliamentary majority. "This cabinet will revive pork barrel politics exercised mainly by the LDP as well as dependence on bureaucrats," the main opposition Shinshinto (New Frontier)

party said. Political analysts said the cabinet was chosen along the lines of the four most powerful LDP factions, with ministries doled out in proportion to their strength.

"The revival of the so-called 'policy tribes' within the LDP is already noticeable," the Japan Times said. "It suggests that too many senior players in the party still appear to believe that practising politics means dividing the spoils."

Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuoka, of the LDP's second-largest faction, has five of his supporters in cabinet posts.

But Mr. Mitsuoka had an uncomfortable introduction when he was asked at two separate news conferences about possible illegal political donations. He strenuously denied any wrongdoing.

The questions were linked to the arrest Thursday of a Japanese oil products wholesaler on suspicion of tax evasion.

Junichi Izumi, 60, owner of the Osaka-based oil wholesale company Izumi Sekiyo Shokai, was arrested on suspicion of evading 330 million Yen (\$3 million) in tax between 1992 and 1994 by failing to report income totalling some 660 million Yen (\$6 million).

"Izumi reportedly had close connections with politicians, made political donations and

purchased tickets for politicians' fund-raising parties," Kyodo news agency reported.

Asked if he had any links to the trader, Mr. Mitsuoka said he had met him at parties and other functions two or three times.

He did not know if his campaign organisation received donations from Izumi, but said he would look into the issue.

"I believe I have not done anything illegal," he said. Mr. Mondale's announcement that he would step down by the end of the year ended a tenure in which he played a key role in settling trade feuds and repairing security ties.

Among the most bitter feuds was one over car trade that took the two nations to the brink of a trade war in 1995.

Mr. Mondale helped to repair security ties frayed by the end of the cold war and jolted by resentment at the U.S. military presence on Japan's southern island of Okinawa after the 1995 rape of a schoolgirl by three U.S. servicemen there.

"Mr. Mondale was viewed as a skillful statesman, and widely respected," said John Neuffer, a political analyst at Mitsui Marine Research Institute. "The Japanese were happy that he was here during these rather tense times," he said.

Blair seeks to follow in Clinton's footsteps

LONDON (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton's re-election has delighted British opposition leader Tony Blair, who has based his own quest for power in upcoming elections on the model Clinton fine-tuned during his 1992 and 1996 campaigns.

Mr. Blair's leading spin doctor and confidant, Peter Mandelson, paid tribute late Thursday to Mr. Clinton's coalition-building which helped him to a second term in the White House, and drew comparisons with Mr. Blair's approach in Britain.

"What Bill Clinton did was to embrace the centre ground of American politics and bring together a very important centre-end centre-left coalition and that is what Tony Blair has been doing in Britain," Mr. Mandelson said.

The parallel between Mr. Blair and Mr. Clinton was highlighted when the Labour Party leader visited Washington earlier this year in a bid to polish the image of a moderate and centrist leadership that he sought to project into financial circles.

It was during a previous trip across the Atlantic three years ago that Mr. Blair first became aware of the electoral philosophy of the Clinton team.

In 1993, Mr. Blair and a fellow moderniser from the Labour ranks, the party's economics spokesman Gordon Brown, made their pilgrimage to Washington to meet the strategists of the first democratic election victory in 16 years.

Up until then, the recent electoral fortunes of the two parties had been similarly unhappy. The years of republic-

can presidencies were almost matched by the 14 years that Labour had spent in opposition.

The fact-finding mission had been partly organised by Jonathan Powell, political secretary of the British embassy in Washington, who was bewitched by Mr. Clinton and who has since become Mr. Blair's chief of staff.

Mr. Clinton's team of advisors explained at length how the battle for power had been played out on central ground. By adopting a highly moral stance, which had previously been the exclusive preserve of the republican party, and versing the message in plain-speaking terms which struck a chord with the middle class majority, the Clinton team had found a winning ticket.

Mr. Blair found that the same approach provided the ideal packaging for his own social moralism, itself steeped in the Christian tradition. Following in the shadow of Mr. Clinton, Mr. Blair has himself adopted the themes of law and order, defence and moral values.

He has pinned a "new labour" label to his party, just as Mr. Clinton sought to project the image of the "new democrat" in his 1992 election campaign.

Mr. Blair biographer John Rentoul said that the Labour leader "did not simply transplant an ideology from America."

Instead, he "used the similarities between the ideas of the modernisers on both sides of the Atlantic in order to apply some of the democrats' vivid language to a body of ideas

which he had largely developed."

But one of the foreboding opposition politicians to have remained close to the tradition of socialism in the Labour Party, Clare Short, has voiced scepticism about any misty-eyed adoration of the Clinton phenomenon.

"The so-called modernisers have been creating myths about why Mr. Clinton won, in order to try and reshape the Labour Party in the way they want it to go," she said in 1993.

Hardly an eyebrow was raised when the press announced after Mr. Clinton's re-election that one of the president's leading advisors, George Stephanopoulos, had offered his services to Labour as it prepares for elections that must be held here by May 1997.

More fighting erupts in south Philippines; death toll hits 94

TIPO-TIPO, Philippines (AP) — The death toll in almost a month of fighting on a southern Philippine island has risen to 94 after the military discovered the bodies of seven soldiers captured by Muslim rebels, an army officer said Friday.

The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the military has killed 64 guerrillas of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front while losing 30 soldiers since the rebels ambushed an army patrol Oct. 15.

The military launched massive operations against the rebels using helicopter gunships and artillery following the ambush in a remote village of Tipo-Tipo on Basilan island, about 900 kilometres south of Manila.

In another ambush early this week, seven wounded soldiers were captured by MILF guerrillas who took them away as they retreated. The army officer did not say when or where their bodies were found.

The MILF is a breakaway faction of the main Muslim rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front, which signed a peace agreement in September ending a quarter-century rebellion for Muslim self-rule in the southern Philippines. The rebellion claimed more than 120,000 lives.

The government has held exploratory talks with MILF leaders since early October, but the fighting had threatened plans for formal peace negotiations.

The army officer said there was fierce fighting in the mountain areas of Tipo-Tipo Friday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Former Tipo-Tipo mayor Al Rashid Sakalalul visited a rebel camp recently to present a request for a cease-fire by Basilan Gov. Jerry Salapuddin, but this was rejected by rebel commander Hamsa Sapanton.

"He even tore the governor's letter," Mr. Sakalalul said.

He said the Sapanton claimed that the soldiers desecrated a mosque, robbed local residents and gang-raped a 16-year-old Muslim girl.

The army officer denied the charges.

Australia bars Gerry Adams due to IRA links

SYDNEY (R) — Australia on Friday barred Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams from entering the country because of his "intimate association" with the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Australian Immigration Minister Philip Ruddock said he had refused Mr. Adams an entry visa because he had failed to meet the good character requirements of the migration act through his IRA association. Sinn Fein is the political wing of the IRA.

Mr. Adams, who has never visited Australia, had sought a visa to promote his autobiography "Before the Dawn" later this month.

"Mr. Adams continues to be intimately associated with the Provisional Irish Republican Army, known as the PIRA," Mr. Ruddock said at a news conference in Sydney.

"The PIRA is an organisation that continues to conduct criminal acts of terrorism and bombing," Mr. Ruddock said. "On this basis, I have refused Mr. Adams' application."

Mr. Ruddock refused to detail what he meant by Mr. Adams' "intimate association" or explain why other Sinn Fein officials, such as executive member Dodie McGuinness, have been allowed to enter Australia. He also refused to say what Mr. Adams needed to do to

be acceptable to the Australian government.

The Australian government has been concerned that Mr. Adams did not condemn the IRA's resumption of violence after the ceasefire breakdown on Feb. 9.

The IRA ended its 17-month truce by attacking British targets in Britain and Germany, then struck in Northern Ireland last month with an attack on Britain's army headquarters.

Britain and Ireland, in an attempt to forge a political settlement to 27 years of the northern Ireland conflict, say Sinn Fein cannot attend peace talks until there is a new IRA truce.

Sinn Fein's Dodie McGuinness said the decision to refuse Mr. Adams a visa was "unhelpful" at a time when Mr. Adams and Nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party leader John Hume were working to restore the peace process in Northern Ireland.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's decision to grant Mr. Adams a visa in 1994 helped lead to the IRA's ceasefire later that year.

"It is universally recognised, even by the British government, that Gerry Adams has played a central role in the search for a peace settlement in Ireland," Ms. McGuinness said in a statement released here.

India's Miss World protesters threaten to take cyanide

BANGALORE (R) — An Indian group threatening mass suicide in protest against the Miss World Beauty Pageant said Friday its members would take cyanide pills to dull the agony of setting themselves on fire.

"Many are worried about the agony of burning. We will each have a cyanide pill to escape the agony," K.N. Shashikala, the group's leader, told Reuters.

But J.H. Patel, chief minister of the Karnataka state in which much of the pageant is due to take place, said tight security arrangements at the stadium would frustrate the plans of Mahila Jagran Samiti (forum for the awakening of women).

"It is an empty threat," he said. "Police will take care of those elements. The show will go on."

Bangalore police plan a massive security operation involving more than 12,000 officers to safeguard the Nov. 23 event, which drew an estimated television audience of two billion viewers last year.

The contest has drawn fire since one of India's most popular film stars, Amitabh Bachchan, announced he had secured the rights to hold it in India for the first time.

Shashikala said the group had abandoned earlier plans to have one member per day set herself on fire, saying they wanted to preserve their 15-

strong suicide squad for the final event, the crowning ceremony, Shashikala said.

"We have to live to thwart the final event," she said. "We will sneak into the stadium and burn ourselves. We have already bought tickets," she said.

It has also been hotly opposed by the Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party as well as the state "armies" association, which has attacked the American fast-food outlet Kentucky Fried Chicken and other western multinational firms. The protests prompted the organisers to shift the pageant's swimsuit competition to the Indian Ocean's Seychelles islands.

Australian contracts new virus from bat

BRISBANE (R) — An Australian woman scratched by a fruit bat was seriously ill in hospital Friday after being diagnosed with a new type of rabies-related virus.

It was the first known case of a person contracting the yet unnamed virus, which belongs to the lyssavirus group which includes rabies, Queensland's State Chief Health Officer Dr. Diana Lange said Friday.

The new virus was first identified earlier this year during a survey of native Australian fauna to search for the equine morbillivirus,

which killed Queensland horse trainer Vic Rail and 14 horses in September 1994, said Dr. Lange.

The 39-year-old unidentified woman, who belongs to a voluntary group that cares for sick animals, was admitted to the Royal Brisbane Hospital Saturday, she said.

The woman was suffering the symptoms of encephalitis, a potentially fatal infection of the brain which causes vomiting, headache and fever. Dr. Lange said.

Australian Health Minister Michael Wooldridge Friday issued a warning urging peo-

ple who might be scratched or bitten by fruit bats to seek urgent medical attention.

But he added the lyssavirus group presented a very low public health risk in rabies-free Australia.

"Although a new finding, it is likely this new virus strain has been present in Australian bat populations for thousands of years," Mr. Wooldridge said.

The Queensland Health Department said other strains of lyssavirus are present in European bats and rare fatalities had been recorded after bites.

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New page turned

The new page reflects the tolerance and benevolence which characterized his rule. His Majesty King Hussein yesterday pardoned Islamist Sheikh Leith Shbeilat.

The imprisonment of Shbeilat in March came in implementation of the law and by orders of the court that found him guilty of slandering the King. His release came as a result of the forgiveness which King Hussein has offered many a political opponent. Shbeilat himself was released under a general amnesty issued by the King three years ago after being sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment when he was found guilty of sedition.

This practice of the King has been the hallmark of his sovereign rule since he assumed his powers in the early 1950s.

Jordan and its laws do not punish opposition and political opponents. The country is working hard on building a democracy which can become a model for others in the region to emulate. But abdicance by the law is the only guarantee that democracy does not deteriorate into chaos. Many political groups that share Shbeilat's opposition to the peace treaty and to other government policies have been expressing their opposition through legal and constitutional means. That is a practice that should be encouraged because it can only benefit the country and its democratisation process. But illegal opposition, especially that which touches on the King who has become a symbol for all Jordanians, cannot be tolerated and can only bring the country unnecessary harm and tension.

It is true that the past few years have witnessed a certain degree of tension in the Kingdom's political life. But it is equally true that significant strides have been made in the field of political reform. Laws permitting political pluralism and more press freedom have been passed, and a centre for the study of freedom, democracy and human rights is being set up to enhance the process of democratisation.

The tension in political life was prompted by the confusion brought by the peace process and the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. That tension should not be allowed to explode and all efforts should be aimed at containing it and restricting it to peaceful, legal and constitutional channels.

While other Islamists and opposition figures were able to accommodate the new reality of peace without sacrificing their basic premise for opposing it, others, like Shbeilat, went as far as turning the affair into a personal one. For that he was tried in accordance with the Constitution and the law of the land.

In his persistent quest to introduce democracy to Jordan and to rid the Middle East from all forms of conflict, the King has been steering Jordan, internally and externally, with utmost care and vigil. His acumen was not matched by equal, or relative, understanding at both the state and peoples' levels. While democracy, introduced with vigour in 1989, meant more freedom of action and expression, it also meant more responsibility and accountability to the people.

The summer of political squabbling and the convening of the ordinary session of Nov. 19, the King's move to pardon Shbeilat measures the government is taking to ease political tension are aimed to clear the atmosphere and ensure a more general relationship between the government and the opposition. That in turn should enable the government and Parliament to cooperate in passing the much-delayed and urgent laws needed to complete the Kingdom's economic reforms and create the conditions for more reforms in the political arena. These are conditions from which Jordan will benefit as it keeps turning new pages in its pursuit of a better life for all Jordanians.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ISRAELI PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman's visit to Jordan presented another chance for His Majesty King Hussein to send a message to the Israeli people demonstrating his determination to pursue the path of peace. The King's visit to Al Ra'i, in his talks with Mr. Weizman, and at the joint press conference later, the King emphasised the need for a comprehensive peace to be established along all the Israeli-Arab tracks so that peace can be durable and just, said the daily. For his part, the president of the state of Israel joined the King in his hopes that the peace process will be crowned with success, thus backing His Majesty's views and aspirations and echoing his message to the Israeli society, according to the paper. The two leaders' messages, said the paper, meant that no peace on any Israeli-Arab track can be achieved through force, illegality or unilateralism.

The peace process, which has witnessed a number of setbacks, is not an insurmountable obstacle due to the Israeli government's intransigence and its ongoing drive to Judaise the Arab city with all its holy shrines.

Jordanian Perspective

Clinton's reelection is a positive development for the Middle East peace process

By Dr. Musa Keilani

JORDAN HAS every reason to be glad that Bill Clinton was reelected president of the United States. Another four years of Clinton White House definitely has strongly positive points for Jordan, both on the bilateral front and in the context of the Middle East peace process.

His Majesty King Hussein's description of Mr. Clinton as a honourable man whom he has known for years comes from a very solid base of bilateral ties that were given new dimensions in the 13 meetings the King had with the U.S. president in Jordan, in the Middle East and at the White House.

If he knows anything about the Middle East, then President Clinton is most closely familiar with Jordan and the Kingdom's commitment to moderation and democracy, not to mention peace in the region. It is doubtful whether this could be said about any other country in the Middle East, including Washington's closest ally Israel.

Indeed, one might ask: If that is the case, why isn't Jordan getting any substantial financial aid from the U.S.? Part of the answer could be the trouble that Mr. Clinton has had with the U.S. Congress for the past two years and another part could be the generally declining level of American foreign assistance. And we cannot hope for any sizeable outright financial aid from the U.S., given the Republican-control of Congress against the Democrat White House.

Having said that, however, we cannot overlook the strong role the U.S. has been playing in support of Jordan at various international forums and governments, as well

as within the U.S. business community, with a view to bringing about natural growth to the Jordanian economy rather than superficial economic aid.

During the Clinton White House so far, Jordanian-American relations have developed progressively, and it can be said that Amman and Washington have found in each other reliable partners. And there is every reason to believe that the ties would be consolidated further during the new Clinton term.

On the peace front, it could be argued that the defeat of Robert Dole was more positive to the Arabs in the sense that a Dole presidency would only have strengthened the "arrogance of power" that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been displaying since coming to power in May.

We cannot forget that the only country that Mr. Dole visited in the Middle East after announcing his candidacy to seek presidency was Israel. That, coupled with his public promise and subsequent campaign to recognise Jerusalem as the "eternal and indivisible capital" of the Jewish state and to move the U.S. embassy to the occupied city, spoke volumes about where Mr. Dole's sympathies lie in the Middle East.

On the other hand, and within the context of the peace process, we are relieved on several counts by the reelection of Mr. Clinton. First of all, we have a U.S. president who does not have to learn the ABCs of the Middle East peace process; thus, there need not be a break in the U.S. involvement in the process (as the case would have been

had Mr. Dole won the race and sought to bring in new faces into the administration — a process that would have taken at least six to nine months).

The incumbent president is fully briefed on Middle Eastern politics, the Arab and Israeli positions and the very basis of the Arab-Zionist struggle.

Regardless of the ups and downs that the peace process has been through, it is quite clear that President Clinton brought in some measure of balance over the years to the American involvement in the Middle East. Of course, that measure is not quite up to the Arab expectations, but then a U.S. president has to live with the political realities within the U.S. and has to consider his own political future.

Again, it is in this context that we see another very positive factor: Mr. Clinton does not have to cave in to the political dictates of his future and another term in office while dealing with key issues, such as the Middle East peace process. While it is difficult to envisage Mr. Clinton "twisting" the Israeli arm or "whipping" Mr. Netanyahu, we could expect the U.S. president to be a lot more forceful in trying to convince Israel that a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict should essentially be based on international legitimacy.

Of course, a lot will also depend on the new team that Mr. Clinton will pick to guide his administration. So, for the moment, we have to wait for the appointments to be made and then judge the real chances of progress in the peace process based on recognition of Arab rights.

By Lamis Andoni

BOSTON — The elections are over. But few days after the results were announced Americans are still undecided over who really won. More specifically, which "ideology" of the two clashing parties — the Democratic and the Republican — has really prevailed.

With a Democratic president and a Republican-controlled Congress it seems to

many that it is premature to assess which direction America is taking. The biggest question, relevant to American lives here, revolves, however, around the future of the welfare state and political liberalism — especially that the elections showed foreign policy does not seem to figure high in the concerns of ordinary Americans.

In the annals of the Internet, which have been deluged with comments by ordinary Americans, and the world of political pundits alike, Americans are pondering over the course the elections will take them into as they cross into the 21st century. At the heart of the debate is whether the idea of combining political democracy with at least a minimum level of social justice (or economic democracy) is workable in America.

The question that appears to underscore the ongoing

debate is whether the elections put an end to political liberalism and the welfare state.

In other words, has the U.S. taken a new shift to the right? This particular question bears special importance since many now feel that the Democratic Party has itself switched to more conservative policies, leaving many self-described liberals protesting on the airwaves and cyberspace about whatever happened to liberal America as they expect the reelection president to bow to the conservative Congress.

Some analysts now say that with the threat of communism out of the way, American leaders do not believe that there is need for the social safety net that welfare spending provided as a buffer against social turmoil and communist ideas.

Supporters of President Bill Clinton disagree. They

argue that his triumph will arrest America's slide toward social and economic conservatism now that he has gained more confidence and experience by his election to a second term in office.

Republicans counter that the president will have to accommodate the conservative Congress, consequently moving the country further to the right.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Clinton, a witness to the Arab-Israeli peace accords, is expected to help see them implemented

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE REELECTION of Bill Clinton for a second term as president of the United States was an issue that figured prominently in the local press, which also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and Palestine, in addition to domestic issues. The reelection of President Clinton is a cause of satisfaction for the Arabs because the president is known well the details of the Arab-Israeli conflict and is expected to finish the job of helping the Middle East region enjoy peace, said Mahmoud Rimawi, a writer for Al Ra'i daily.

The Arabs expect Mr. Clinton to stop condoning Israel's illegal measures and disregard to the U.N. resolutions and its violations of the international laws and to turn his attention towards addressing this chronic issue, he said.

The writer also stressed the need for the Arabs to seek international backing for their legitimate rights and ensure that the Europeans do not substitute the Americans in the peace process but rather conduct Washington's mission so as to ensure Mr. Clinton's continued dedication to this important task.

Hamadeh Faraneh, a writer for Al Dustour, said the Arabs should not expect a total reversal of American policies in the Middle East region overnight, following Mr. Clinton's reelection for a second term in office.

It is true that the Clinton administration is not quite happy with the Netanyahu government's practices and that Mr. Clinton had openly supported the leader of the Labour Party, Shimon Peres, yet one has to

acknowledge the influence over American policies in the U.S. Congress, said the writer. He said that President

Clinton was witness to the Arab-Israeli peace accords and he is expected to help see them implemented, but the Arabs have to take the initiative and continue to rally international support for their just causes. He said that the Palestinians have taken the right steps and won many friends while the Israelis feel continually isolated, and further efforts have to be made to ensure a final and successful outcome of the peace process.

The United States is not to be considered as a mere mediator in the Arab-Israeli peace process, but rather as a partner in the building of peace between the two sides, said Hussein Abu Rumman, a writer for Al Ra'i daily.

Under the Clinton administration's second term, said the writer, the Arabs expect from Washington to exercise real pressure on the Israeli government to force it carry out the peace agreements with the Palestinians, stop the Jewish settlement programmes and honour its peace commitments, he said. We feel that the ball is now in the American court and the Arabs ought to link their readiness to pursue the negotiations with Israel with Washington's clear and open pledge to secure Israel's abidance by the rules that would bring about a genuine and lasting peace, said the writer.

Ibrahim Al Absi, a writer for Al Ra'i, predicted that a war would break out soon between Israel and Syria, saying that the Israelis have been preparing for a long aggression for a long time.

The writer said that Israel would first prepare for a scenario to pave the ground for the coming attack on Syria which has proved to be an adamant opponent to the Jewish state's expansionist dreams in this region. Syria has been determined to hold on to its

rights and does not accept any formula other than the exchange of land for peace, demanding that Israel withdraw from all the lands occupied since 1967, said the writer.

In the 1956 aggression on Egypt, Israel was helped by Britain and France; in the 1967 war, Israel coordinated its steps with Washington and in its 1982 war on Lebanon, the Israeli move was blessed by the United States, according to the writer.

LETTERS

Understanding democracy

To the Editor:

THE DECISION to introduce Christian religion education into government schools proves that we, Jordanians, are reaping the fruits of democratic reforms.

The government has made democratic moves; now it is our turn, as citizens, to practice and enjoy the democratic reforms. We need to understand and respect the views of others, in the framework of public freedoms which we are now enjoying.

Democratic reform requires continued education for all. Thus one should reach a point where one knows what his/her rights and obligations are under a democracy.

Discussions should address many particulars and deal with them through a national debate. Such a debate should use either JTV or the national press as venues.

Some points to be debated could be identified: introducing the concept of democracy through the national educational system — schools should focus more on educating the young generations on how to deal with the new freedoms, to respect themselves and respect others; educational or informative seminars/lectures/workshops could be arranged to help acquaint people with the meaning of democracy; have members of Parliament interact with their constituencies and thus make sure democracy is applied correctly.

A good friend of mine, a lawyer, sharply observed: "People must learn about democracy during their infant years. While an infant is being breast fed, democracy must be nourished into his/her intellect as well."

We still have a long way to go before enjoying democratic affirmation. But one thing is clear: admiration and respect must be paid our nation on its way towards uncompromising practice of democracy.

Samer F. Qubaisa, Amman.

Spikes in parks

To the Editor:

I AM nine years old and have been meaning to write to you for a long time.

I am very happy about all the parks that have been built around Amman. Children in this city really need places to play. Recently, a park was made near where I live, next to the King Hussein Medical Centre, in the Jandaweel neighbourhood. I do not like it at all because there is no play area and it has a very dangerous fence around it. The fence is dangerous because it is made out of sharp metal spikes and they are right at the level where a child might fall on them. Every day I see children riding their bikes near these spikes. Soon someone will have a very bad accident that might kill them. Whoever is in charge of park fences should ban this kind from Jordan and the world.

Daniel Robert Linfield, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Taleban intensify prayer roundups

KABUL (AFP) — Taleban fighters armed with machine guns and lengths of hose-pipe on Friday appeared to intensify their weekly drive to force Kabul residents into the city's main mosque, witnesses said.

The stepped up effort came exactly six weeks after the Islamic warriors burst into the city, toppling the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and imposing strict Islamic rule here.

"For some reason they seem to have got serious again this week about making people offer prayers in mosque," student Sayed Agha said.

"There was no violence, but there was certainly more pressure than in the past few weeks, although it was not as strong as on the first Friday after the Taleban arrived here," he added.

About 20 fighters patrolled the streets near the battered capital's main Pul-e-Kheshti mosque ahead of Friday prayers in the domed 18th century building, prodding and sometimes dragging passers-by inside. One fighter dragged an old man into the mosque by his beard after he resisted the order to offer prayers, while a handcuffed man who was being pushed through the streets



Taleban militiamen use a whip to force locals to attend Friday prayers at the Pole-e-Kheshti mosque in central Kabul (Reuters photo)

Kabariti pledges to support refugee camp services

HUSN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti told residents of Azmi Mufti Palestinian refugee camp near Husn that those Palestinians living in Jordan and looking forward to returning to their homeland can continue to contribute to the country's development.

While on a visit to the camp in northern Jordan Thursday, Mr. Kabariti said that all Jordanians, regardless of their origin, live in equality and freedom, are the foundation of strong national unity under the Hashemite umbrella and will continue to build the nation together.

He stressed that this unity is sacred, and as such, the government would not hesitate to deal firmly with those who attempt to tamper with it or exploit it for any purpose.

The prime minister told public rally during his inspection visit that Jordan will remain the homeland of free people and a haven of democracy, respect for human rights and pluralism and will continue to seek justice and equality for all its people.

Jordan refutes rights allegations cited in U.S. State Department report, says charges not based on reality

(Continued from page 12)

The government maintains that not allowing detainees to see their lawyers before trial lacks precision and objectivity. The prosecutor general should — before questioning the defendant — ask him/her whether he/she would like to have a lawyer or not. When the defendant does not have the right to represent himself/herself then the court automatically appoints a lawyer, particularly when the defendant refuses to appoint one or is proved unable to afford one.

Arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence

According to the State Department report, the authorities generally respect constitutional prohibitions of such practices. In most cases, police must obtain a warrant from the prosecutor general or a judge before conducting searches. However, in security cases authorities sometimes — in violation of the law — obtain warrants retroactively or obtain pre-approved warrants. Security officers reportedly monitor telephones, read correspondence, and engage in surveillance of persons who allegedly pose a threat to the regime. While these practices are not believed to be widespread, the law permits them if the government obtains a court order.

The accusations are baseless, the government says. Telephone calls are private matters and so is correspondence unless the independent judicial authority allows interception when investigating a crime. All trials have been carried out in accordance with the rules of procedure of the criminal code — a law that is modern and is originally based on French and Belgian related laws. The law permits the prosecution general to take certain measures in order to collect evidence on criminals. Security forces cannot violate the law.

Freedom of speech and press

Although the report pointed to the fact that citizens generally do not hesitate to openly criticize the government, it said that the Press and Publications Law of 1993 has certain limitations in matters related to freedom of the press. It restricts the coverage of 10 subjects, most notably the army, the Royal family, and the value of the currency, the report said, pointing also to complaints by journalists about the requirement that "they must join the government-sponsored Jordan Press Association."

"In 1995, the courts heard approximately 20 cases related to freedom of the press, in two cases it issued guilty verdicts and fines of JD 100 each," the report said.

In the government's assessment, only newspapers which contravene the articles of the law by causing incitement are taken to court. Violations are overlooked sometimes, the government said. But when violations and incitement become a threat to the social peace, they are dealt with democratically through referral to court. The Press and Publications Law is one of the most modern in the world, the government claims. In addition, opposition newspapers outnumber pro-government ones, according to the government.

Freedom of religion/ freedom of peaceful assembly and association

The report expresses the belief that the government has become concerned about public dissent arising from the peace treaty signed with Israel in 1994. According to the report, the government, in 1995, denied permits for public protest and rallies opposing the treaty. In May of that year, the government rescinded a previously issued permit for a conference sponsored by 11 political parties opposed to the normalisation of relations with Israel. The government also harassed supporters of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party during municipal elections in July (1995).

In September the government reaffirmed the year-old ban prohibiting 25 Islamist parliamentarians from preaching in mosques.

The government said: Mosques are not forums for political party activities. If they were not organised and administered properly, then political parties would compete over them. They are not a place for incitement either. Additionally, the number of IAF parliamentarians in the Lower House of Parliament are 16 and not 25 as the State Department report indicated. The Constitution prohibits deputies from politicising government departments to ensure public neutrality. They cannot preach in mosques that are controlled by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Women/freedom of movement within the country

According to the report, the law provides for the right of citizens to travel freely abroad but requires Jordanian women and foreign women married to Jordanians to obtain written permission from a male guardian to travel abroad or apply for a passport. Legal

Seminar analyses Arab-Israel relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — A one-day seminar was held yesterday at the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies to analyse and evaluate Arab-Israeli relations in view of the latest developments in the Middle East peace process.

The closed seminar, was attended by leading intellectual and research figures from Arab countries contiguous to Israel, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.

According to Mustapha Hamameh, director of the centre, the participants discussed different models of Arab relations with Israel, from those of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians, which have signed peace treaties and agreements with Israel, to the others like Syria and Lebanon which have not gone beyond the stage of negotiations with the Israelis.

Different alternatives to dealing with Israel were also discussed. Dr. Hamameh said, but not to just improve the Arab bargaining position. The participants reviewed ways and means of how the Arab World might emerge stronger, generally speaking, he said.

Those who attended the seminar came with specific experiences and ideas, as many of them served and continue to serve in official capacities and dealt with Israel as such. Dr. Hamameh said, listing an examples Egyptian presidential advisor Osama Baz, former Jordanian Prime Minister Taher Masri and Information Minister Marwan Muasher. Other attendees were Dr. Aziz Shukri, a former dean of Damascus University's law college and currently director of its strategic studies centre; Ragheed Al Sulh, a prominent Lebanese thinker; Khalil Shiqqi and Riad Malki from Palestine. The meetings of the seminar were chaired by Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh, president of University of Jordan and attended in the Jordanian side by former Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine and Abdul Ilah Khatib.

A consensus emerged among the participants that although Israel has not basically changed its attitudes towards the Arabs, the Palestinians were now stronger in dealing with Israel, even with the right-wing government of Benjamin Netanyahu being at the helm, Dr. Hamameh said.

Israel to return West Bank land of Sharif Zaid Hussein

AMMAN (AP) — A member of the Royal Hashemite family said Thursday that Israel has agreed to return property confiscated from his father in the West Bank more than 30 years ago.

Sharif Zaid Nasser, son of former Prime Minister Sharif Hussein Ben Nasser, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "told me in a letter that he agreed to return my land to me."

The pledge to acknowledge Sharif Zaid's claim to the 216 acres comes as many Arab families still do not know the fate of properties they left behind when they fled with the creation of Israel in 1948 or in the 1967 Middle East war.

The fate of the land is to be discussed in the final phase of Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

The Israeli embassy here said it had no information on the deal.

Sharif Zaid told Petra that the agreement followed negotiations that began during the term of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was assassinated last year.

His father's land lies west of the Jordan River and fell under Israel's custody when the Jewish state occupied the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war, he said.

"The Middle East peace process had a big role in enabling me to regain my father's land," he was quoted as saying.

He said he would donate the land to the Waqf to "build a mosque on it and name it after my father."

Cigarettes, heavy arms seized from smugglers

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an hour-long chase across the Jordanian desert, involving both squad cars and helicopters, police captured four alleged smugglers and seized 123 cartons of foreign cigarettes, an unspecified number of automatic weapons and rocket launchers.

Badia and border police forces reported the aborted smuggling operation near the Saudi and Iraqi borders Thursday evening and said that during the pursuit suspects and police engaged in an exchange of gunfire in which two policemen were slightly wounded.

Amman.

In the Qusour district a 20 year old man identified only as F. A., allegedly confessed to the killing of his 65-year old aunt.

A police source said that the woman was found stabbed several times and later strangled.

The nephew then allegedly set fire to the body in order to conceal the crime.

However, the source said, a neighbour later spotted the man leaving the house and called the police who stated that the man confessed to the crime and re-enacted the murder scenario.

At Wadi Haddadeh a 28 year-old man, identified only as A. A., allegedly strangled a friend at the victim's home.

Police said the men had been drinking heavily. Investigations were continuing.

Murders reported

Meanwhile two murders occurred Thursday in the Jabal Qusour and Wadi Haddadeh districts of

Jordan is ready to help build economy of Palestinians. Abul Ragheb says in Ramallah

(Continued from page 12)

House, quarters in Arab East Jerusalem, and met with Faisal Hussein, the Palestinian official in charge of Jerusalem affairs.

He told reporters after the meeting that Jordanian-Palestinian relations were distinguished and that bilateral coordination was strong. "His Majesty King Hussein's visit (last month) to Jericho was the first ever visit by an Arab leader and was a sign of Jordan's support for the Palestinians' right for self-determination," said Mr. Abul Ragheb.

In reply to a question on this week's Middle East and North Africa economic conference in Cairo, Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the conference would be a suitable opportunity for Arab businessmen to openly discuss investments in the Middle East. But, he said, "the conference will not meet with great success because its success depends on the peace process, which isites

The Palestinian minister of religious affairs said Thursday differences between Jordan and Palestinians for control of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem has been resolved.

Hassan Tabboub said Jordan will retain control of Jerusalem's holy sites pending the outcome of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on the final status of the city.

The Palestinians will be responsible for sites outside Jerusalem's municipal boundaries.

Mr. Tabboub said the agreement was reached during a meeting in Jordan of officials of the Jordanian and Palestinian Islamic trusts.

The properties involved include schools, cultural centres, housing and mosques — including Jerusalem's Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques.

The agreement reached puts the Palestinians in control of 52 mosques in the Jerusalem area. The Palestinians will also control a number of schools, colleges and other properties.

Clinton poised to make major cabinet changes

(Continued from page 1)

phers said during brief remarks, his voice at times quivering with emotion. "I am convinced that especially in this time of change in the world, the American people expect our nation to maintain its strong and principled global leadership," he said.

Topping the list of contenders for the top diplomat's job was former senator George Mitchell, who was earlier this year appointed as peace envoy for Northern Ireland and served as Mr. Clinton's debate coach during the campaign. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright was also seen as a candidate for the post, as were Bosnia peacemaker Richard Holbrooke, Colin Powell, the former joint chiefs-of-staff chairman and former Democratic Senator Sam Nunn.

King pardons Shbeilat

(Continued from page 1)

opponent of the peace treaty with Israel, has won for the second time the presidency of the Engineers Association last February while in detention. His release comes at a time when the government seeks to ease the pressure caused by the lifting of subsidy on bread last August which resulted in riots in the south.

Mr. Shbeilat, who served as a deputy from 1984 until 1992, nominated himself for a Balqa seat made vacant by the death of Islamist deputy Ibrahim Shehdeh. But his nomination was turned down. It was not known whether Mr. Shbeilat, who in 1992 said he quit politics, intends to nominate himself for the parliamentary elections in 1997. If the slander conviction was not considered political, he cannot, according to the law, run for elections.

U.S. officials reject theory

(Continued from page 1)

air promotion group. About 40 airlines, including American carriers, are linked to the group, Mr. Salinger said.

He said his information is that the navy was testing missiles off the coast of New York on July 17, and had been told planes would be flying higher than 21,000 feet.

The navy was unaware that because another commercial plane was flying above it, flight 800 was flying at 13,000 feet, Mr. Salinger said.

Asked if the document was sufficiently convincing to justify his charges, Mr. Salinger replied: "The document is something that is highly accurate. It has highly accurate information in it."

The FBI received dozens of calls from people claiming to have seen a missile at the time of the explosion. Rumors that the aircraft was shot down by friendly fire also have abounded on the Internet.

Authorities have said there is no basis for the rumors. They maintain that the evidence collected so far has not proven what caused the explosion, and that three theories still exist: mechanical failure, a bomb or a missile.

Puerto Rico-style status

(Continued from page 1)

"At this point we have not received any reaction from the Israelis about the letter," Mr. Erakat added.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have not restarted talks on finding a solution to Israel's delayed military redeployment from Hebron since last Thursday and both sides have blamed each other for the impasse.

Meanwhile Israeli security forces were put on alert in Hebron on Friday amid fears of clashes between Jewish extremists and Palestinians during religious observances on Saturday of a Jewish holiday, officials said.

Investors are awaiting flow of funds to AFM

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Share prices dipped a little last week at the Jordanian stock market, but brokers Thursday attributed the drop to normal fluctuations in the market and said the bourse remained healthy after liberal moves adopted by the Central Bank.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) showed turnover for the week ending Thursday was 3.4 million dinars compared with the previous week's three million dinars.

The report said 1.7 million shares changed hands under 2,023 contracts concluded during the week with daily average trading at 480,000 dinars compared with the previous week's 600,000 dinars.

The official AFM share price index based on 60 major companies closed for the week at 147.74 points, down 0.38 points or 0.26 per cent, from the week's

opening of 148.12 points. Industrials accounted for 1.07 million dinars of the weekly volume, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with 0.96 million dinars. Services sector shares with 370,000 dinars and insurance stocks with 14,400 dinars.

Sectoral indices showed commercial banks and financial institutions losing 0.03 per cent, insurance stock 1.07 per cent, services sector firms one per cent and industrials 0.45 per cent.

Stocks of 83 companies were involved in the week's trading, with 17 of them closing with gains, 50 losing and 16 remaining unchanged, the AFM report said.

AFM dealers, speaking on condition of anonymity under standing guidelines, said the market was expecting an improvement in prices and volume of trading after the Central Bank adopted a series of mea-

sures aimed at freeing tied-down capital.

The new measures include reducing mandatory reserves of commercial banks in foreign currency at the Central Bank from 35 per cent to 14 per cent of their foreign currency deposits and allowing unrestricted bank accounts in foreign currency for both Jordanians and foreigners.

The Central Bank also allowed banks to lend in foreign currency to each other, reversing a decades-old policy.

AFM dealers expected commercial banks to be able to pump in more money into the stock market and also to extend further credit to investors.

"The moves are slowly taking effect, and this week's business did not immediately reflect their impact," said a broker.

"Investors have been watching the flow of fresh funds into the market."

Netanyahu urges Israeli businessmen to attend Cairo conference

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged Israeli businessmen Thursday to attend next week's Middle East economic conference in Cairo.

"Go to Cairo and make business. It is good for the Jews, good for the Arabs and good for peace," Mr. Netanyahu told a meeting of heads of industry from the manufacturers association in Tel Aviv.

Mr. Netanyahu said his Foreign Minister David Levy would head the Israeli delegation to Cairo, including Industry Minister Natan Scharansky, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy.

Two hardliners in Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet, Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon and Agriculture Minister Raphael Eytan, have announced they will boycott the conference to protest anti-Israeli attacks in the Egyptian press.

Mr. Sharon's ministry governs a number of projects decided on at the two previous Middle East economic conferences — held in Amman in 1995 and

Casablanca in 1994. The projects included plans for the import of Egyptian natural gas and the linking of the Israeli, Egyptian and Jordanian electrical networks. Agriculture was also the focus of a number of joint projects involving Israel.

Palestinian businessmen have declared a boycott of the Cairo conference, which runs from Nov. 12-14, in protest of Israeli security measures which have wreaked havoc with the economy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel has maintained a strict closure of the Palestinian territories, blocking free movement of goods and workers, since a string of anti-Israeli suicide bombings last February.

Jordanian Commerce Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, visiting Palestinian officials in East Jerusalem Thursday, said he doubted the summit would be a success, blaming the hold up in the peace process since Mr. Netanyahu took office in June.

In Tel Aviv, Mr. Netanyahu dismissed "attempts to portray Israel as guilty of blocking peace negotiations with the

Palestinians."

He also denied charges by some Arab experts that Israel seeks to control a regional Middle East market. "Our foreign trade, based mainly on high technology, is pointed mainly towards American, European and Asian markets."

"But we must make efforts to create a new reality in the region to strengthen peace through the economy," he said.

The Israeli delegation to the Cairo conference will include some 100 representatives from the "most important Israeli businesses," the head of the manufacturers association, Dan Propper, said.

"Our goal is to locate Egyptian partners in particular," he said, adding that Egyptian businessmen had recently made "very positive signs" in favour of business with Israel.

The Egyptian businessmen's association "recently invited around 30 Israeli businessmen to a dinner on a Nile cruiseboat to talk business, not politics," Mr. Propper said.

He said Egypt's ambassador to Israel Mohammad Bassiouni had assured him Israeli businessmen would be "welcomed with open arms" in Cairo and that "a meeting with high Egyptian officials" was expected during the conference.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET													
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI													
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179													
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (02/11/1996 - 06/11/1996)													
WEEKLY REPORT													
DURING THE LAST 5 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	No. OF CONTRACTS	No. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS
249,000	241,500 ARAB BANK	13.5	1.42	48	2940	627495	247.00	248.00	246.00	246.50	-.50	247.045	4
1,140	1,030 MID-EAST INV. BK.	60.3	0.00	73	41700	43770	1.06	1.07	1.03	1.04	-.02	1.050	4
2,240	2,180 INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.2	6.13	35	22368	52855	2.18	2.27	2.17	2.27	-.09	2.234	5
4,900	4,700 THE HOUSING BK.	13.1	2.82	32	15408	75321	4.80	4.92	4.80	4.90	-.10	4.889	5
2,650	2,550 JOR. RENTIST BANK	18.5	0.00	18	1236	3136	2.65	2.60	2.45	2.55	-.10	2.537	4
530	490 JOR. GULF BANK	5.4	7.78	41	72450	65374	.91	.91	.90	.90	-.01	.902	5
3,750	3,640 JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.9	0.00	27	9546	35526	3.70	3.72	3.69	3.72	-.02	3.715	4
1,530	1,490 UNION BK. SAV. INV.	109.8	0.00	2	300	753	1.57	1.57	1.48	1.53	-.01	1.506	2
3,300	3,200 JOR. INV. FID. BANK	17.3	0.00	8	2384	7259	3.20	3.21	3.20	3.20	-.01	3.200	4
2,830	1,800 DAIT AL-HAM (BEITRA)	1.1	8.33	1	400	720	1.84	1.80	1.80	1.80	-.04	1.800	2
4,500	4,450 ARAB BANKING CO.	23.3	0.00	13	5401	24294	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50	-.01	4.490	3
1,370	1,310 PHILADEL. INV. BK.	-	0.00	20	8634	11150	1.33	1.36	1.28	1.29	-.04	1.291	4
BANKS SECTOR													
315 183825 947944 INDEX NUMBER: 189.09 CHANGE: -1.0027													
2,780	2,650 UNITED INSURANCE	11.7	4.21	1	250	713	2.78	2.85	2.85	2.85	-.07	2.852	1
4,550	4,550 JERUSALEM INSUR.	12.2	4.44	4	474	2151	4.55	4.55	4.50	4.50	-.05	4.538	4
2,170	1,900 JOR. FIRE INSUR.	5.2	10.87	12	4442	8036	1.90	1.93	1.84	1.84	-.06	1.894	4
2,470	2,010 TAMPONE INSUR.	-	0.00	2	400	792	2.13	2.03	1.93	1.93	-.20	1.980	2
2,200	2,050 ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.3	7.27	4	850	1870	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	-.01	2.200	2
INSURANCE SECTOR													
24 6636 14355 INDEX NUMBER: 118.19 CHANGE: -1.0504													
1,430	1,590 JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.0	7.59	38	14697	23217	1.50	1.58	1.58	1.58	-.01	1.580	4
8,750	8,750 JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	17.9	1.98	1	500	4155	8.75	8.31	8.31	8.31	-.44	8.310	1
2,480	2,480 HIGH MINERALS	12.0	5.71	2	1008	2470	2.48	2.45	2.45	2.45	-.03	2.450	1
6,130	6,150 VNCIS. CHAMBER FED.	10.9	5.49	2	120	6031	6.15	6.15	6.15	6.15	-.01	6.151	1
2,520	2,450 SHIPPING LINE	19.4	7.94	4	28350	71709	2.52	2.54	2.52	2.52	-.02	2.529	4
1,240	1,160 NATL. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	50	16320	18948	1.17	1.18	1.15	1.15	-.07	1.162	5
960	890 REAL ESTATE INV.	20.2	4.10	6	7225	2479	.96	.91	.91	.91	-.05	.910	2
6,680	6,630 JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	31.3	0.00	7	1237	782	6.68	6.68	6.68	6.68	-.01	6.680	1
7,600	7,600 ALARA I	9.0	6.58	1	200	1520	7.60	7.60	7.60	7.60	-.01	7.600	1
3,320	3,440 ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	12.5	5.85	27	12432	42594	3.30	3.49	3.42	3.42	-.08	3.426	12
1,170	1,170 ZAKA EDUCATION	-	0.00	9	4850	5285	1.13	1.12	1.06	1.06	-.07	1.090	4
1,780	1,730 UNITED CO.	9.1	5.78	19	3481	6011	1.78	1.74	1.72	1.72	-.01	1.727	5
930	880 UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	5	1800	1578	.90	.89	.87	.89	-.01	.877	2
SERVICES SECTOR													
186 87802 181957 INDEX NUMBER: 110.34 CHANGE: -1.1004													
3,470	3,270 JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.9	3.03	90	31072	102693	3.33	3.34	3.29	3.30	-.03	3.305	5
3,150	3,050 JOR. PHOSPHATE WMS	32.8	0.00	11	3541	10188	3.05	3.07	3.05	3.05	-.02	3.067	4
5,450	5,470 ARAB POTASH CO.	10.0	3.57	12	20331	114191	5.40	5.45	5.40	5.40	-.05	5.417	4
9,310	9,080 JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.2	8.79	26	2576	23597	9.20	9.20	9.10	9.10	-.10	9.166	4
1,350	1,210 WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	54.2	0.00	1	250	305	1.21	1.22	1.22	1.22	-.01	1.220	1
2,210	2,150 INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	27.6	0.00	3	598	1209	2.15	2.15	2.05	2.05	-.10	2.052	1
7,900	6,950 JOR. WOODPULP MILLS	8.9	6.58	4	3450	23816	6.96	6.93	6.90	6.90	-.03	6.923	4
3,490	3,280 ARAB PHARM. MANF.	17.7	6.19	127	25522	75925	3.29	3.29	3.20	3.23	-.06	3.278	5
6,070	6,050 JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.5	4.13	2	4000	24200	6.06	6.05	6.05	6.05	-.01	6.050	1
2,150	2,150 JORDAN DAIRY	13.2	6.98	6	1551	3392	2.15	2.20	2.15	2.15	-.05	2.187	4
1,480	1,480 RAFFIA INDUSTRIES	17.9	0.00	2	1000	712	1.48	1.42	1.41	1.42	-.06	1.420	2
4,500	4,500 DAIT AL-HAM. TV. INV.	12.5	4.40	7	1020	4631	4.50	4.54	4.50	4.54	-.05	4.549	4
3,520	3,490 ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.7	8.60	2	166	577	3.47	3.45	3.49	3.49	-.01	3.476	2
710	590 LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	-	0.00	177	168590	99144	.59	.60	.57	.58	-.01	.588	5
2,890	2,750 MINERAL INVESTMENT	8.0	4.49	6	3056	10093	2.89	3.34	3.03	3.14	-.45	3.103	4
1,210	1,150 ARAB PAPER COM. TRD.	7.9	8.93	4	800	695	1.15	1.16	1.15	1.16	-.01	1.158	2
640	580 NATIONAL TRDG.	8.6	10.34	27	14850	8646	.59	.59	.57	.58	-.01	.582	5
1,120	980 INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	-	0.00	37	11816	11395	.98	1.00	.94	.98	-.02	.964	5
910	850 JOR. ROCKWELL TRDG.	145.6	0.00	6	2950	2463	.85	.84	.83	.83	-.02	.835	1
2,700	2,600 UNIV. CHEM. TRDG.	69.5	0.00	2	450	1184	2.63	2.63	2.63	2.63	-.01	2.631	2
850	800 JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	10.0	0.00	4	800	712	.80	.80	.77	.78	-.04	.781	2
1,350	1,260 ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	22.1	0.00	21	5650	4786	1.26	1.25	1.17	1.18	-.08	1.201	5
1,600	1,480 UNIV. MOON. IND.	4.5	13.61	29	13050	19369	1.51	1.51	1.47	1.47	-.04	1.484	5
1,460	1,360 JOR. IND. RESOURCES	17.1	0.00	41	14094	19087	1.39	1.39	1.35	1.36	-.03	1.354	5
940	890 JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	24.2	0.00	22	13000	11655	.90	.90	.89	.89	-.01	.897	5
1,870	1,790 EL-SAY READY WEAR	117.7	0.00	19	11610	25676	1.84	1.84	1.83	1.83	-.01	1.833	5
1,140	1,080 JOR. TOBACCO	10.0	0.00	53	40029	43464	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.09	-.01	1.088	5
1,120	990 UNION CH. & VEG.	24.1	0.00	27	22800	22668	1.00	1.01	.98	.98	-.02	.994	4
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR													
786 419312 469339 INDEX NUMBER: 110.25 CHANGE: -1.0451													
GRAND TOTAL													
1311 697575 1813636 INDEX NUMBER: 147.74 CHANGE: -0.264													
NO. OF DAYS TRADED: 5													
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME: 362,727													
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADED SHARES: 139,515													
DAILY AVERAGE OF CONTRACTS: 262													

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
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In the same group, Portugal will seek revenge

Latin America sees just three weekend matches as Bolivia host runaway group leaders Colombia at high altitude in La Paz, while Paraguay face

But whatever the continent, the route to World Cup glory is tortuously long and hard.

Denver Nuggets' forward Antonio McDyess (L) fouls Houston Rockets' center Hakeem Olajuwon as Olajuwon drives the lane in the first quarter in Denver. Houston defeated Denver 110-108. (Reuters photo)

The Nuggets were without starting forward Laphonso Ellis, who will	New York Atlanta	105 91	Golden State Sacramento	100 87
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CONCORD "1"

Boxing promoter Don King (C) holds up the arms of WBA heavyweight champion Mike Tyson (L) and challenger Evander Holyfield following their pre-fight press conference. Tyson will fight Holyfield in Las Vegas tonight.

NEA RESULTS		
Orlando	108	New Jersey 95 (In Tokyo)
Houston	110	Denver 108 (Ot)
Seattle	103	Phoenix 98
Portland	95	Minnesota 94 (Ot)
New York	105	Golden State 100
Atlanta	91	Sacramento 87

<p>CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA</p> <p><i>Philadelphia 1</i> Tom Cruise ... in MISSION IMPOSSIBLE</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p><i>Philadelphia 2</i> SABRINA</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 699238 PLAZA</p> <p>INDEPENDENCE DAY (In Dolby stereo)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45</p>	<p>CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD</p> <p>CONCORD "1" INDEPENDENCE DAY (In Dolby stereo)</p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:45</p> <p>CONCORD "2" DISCLOSURE</p> <p>Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30</p>	<p>Amnious Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275</p> <p>Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government</p> <p>Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimeh & Hussein Tubishat <i>Play starts 8:30 p.m.</i></p>	<p>Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155</p> <p>PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights</p> <p>At 8:30 p.m. Theatre is closed Friday & Saturday For reservation please call 625155 - 640155</p>
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Spanish 500cc motorcycling rider Alex Criville (R) seated next to Spanish Carlos Sainz gets ready to drive a Ford Rally car during an exhibition race at Montmelo race track. Sainz later took a turn on Criville's bike (Reuters photo)

Hingis in Oakland semis; Fernandez out

OAKLAND (R) — Swiss teen Martina Hingis said she was disappointed in her game on Thursday, but she played well enough to advance to the semifinals of the Bank of the West Classic.

Third-seeded Hingis beat Linda Wild 6-3, 6-2 in just 58 minutes, setting up a semifinal matchup on Saturday against either second-seeded American Lindsay Davenport or fifth seed Brenda Schultz-McCarthy, who play on Friday.

Also advancing Thursday were Russian Elena Likhovtseva, who upset fourth seed Mary Joe Fernandez 6-3, 6-1, and Romanian Irina Spilaea, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Paola Suarez of Argentina.

Hingis had been in complete control in her first match here, against American Anne Miller, but looked more tentative against the hard-hitting Wild. Shots that she normally hits for winners went into the alleys or beyond the baseline.

"It was such a bad match," said Hingis, ranked seventh in the world. "It was not very interesting. I wasn't really hitting. I was angry and disappointed that I couldn't make the shots I wanted."

Wild, who upset seventh seed Chanda Rubin on Monday, had very little to say other than her opponent "has everything. She mixes it up pretty well. She's really smart."

Hingis, 16, who became the youngest player to win a Wimbledon title, in doubles with Helena Sukova, has defeated eight top-10 players this year. She could face top seed Monica Seles in Sunday's final for the first time.

Likhovtseva could meet Seles in Saturday's semifinal, if she gets past Spilaea and Seles beats Kim Po on Friday. Likhovtseva had lost to Fernandez 6-2, 6-4 in their only other meeting, at the 1996 Olympics. She appeared in control throughout the match, but said she was not.

"Actually I was very nervous the whole match," Likhovtseva said. "I just tried to concentrate on my game and not make too many mistakes."

Fernandez, who has lost three of her past four matches since the Canadian Open, was hampered by tendinitis in her right wrist.

"I took three or four weeks off with no hitting against Canada," Fernandez said. "I feel like I'm hitting a little better, but I wish I could take some more time off."

Martin more interested in golf than tennis

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Second seed Todd Martin isn't letting the quarter-final win in the Stockholm Open affect his dream of a well-deserved home golfing holiday in Florida later this month.

The American World No. 12 improved his record over compatriot Richey Reneberg to six wins and three defeats with a 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinal victory at the Kungliga as the final regular season event of a long ATP tour season enters the conclusive stage.

But Martin is refusing to worry about whether he will squeeze into the field as an alternate at the eight-man Nov. 19-24 World Championship in Hannover, Germany, based on his performance this week.

"If I don't get to Hannover, I'll be playing golf at home with Chris Woodruff (a second-round loser here to holder Thomas Enqvist)," said Martin. "Either way, I'll be hitting a ball that week. I certainly don't worry about Hannover when I'm on court here."

Martin next faces one of the crop of young Swedes achieving success at the home event.

Magnus Norman, the youngest player in the draw at age 20 and ranked No. 106 on the ATP tour list, earned his second semifinal place of 1996, beating American Vince Spadea 6-3, 7-6 (9-7).

In a bizarre incident, Spadea twice lost his shoe during a point.

The world No. 62 American, coached in a trial run this week by Swede Peter Lundgren, the former mentor of Chile's Marcelo Rios, asked for one of the points to be replayed.

Though the request was denied by the chair umpire, Spadea thought he was within his rights under a little-known rule which allows a replay if a player's hat flies off at mid-point.

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- Q. 1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ 7 Void ♠ A K 10 7 6 3 ♠ A K 8 5 2
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 3C
- What action do you take?
- Q. 2 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ 8 6 ♣ 7 ♣ 8 3 ♠ A K J 7 5 2
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 3C
- What do you bid now?
- Q. 3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ A 9 5 ♣ K J 8 7 ♠ A 10 9 4 ♠ Q 6
- Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q. 4 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
- ♠ A K 6 3 2 ♣ K Q 10 5 ♠ 8 5
- The bidding has proceeded:
- SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
- 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ 3C
- What action do you take?
- Look for answers on Monday.

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FIFA makes moves to avoid more tragedy

ZURICH (R) — FIFA, world soccer's governing body, counted their dead on Thursday and announced steps to prevent the further loss of lives at matches.

Having resolved the tricky issues surrounding co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup by Japan and South Korea on Wednesday, FIFA's World Cup organizing committee spent the second day of meetings wrestling with stadium security after recent incidents claimed more than 90 lives.

Until further notice, Guatemala's Flores Mateo Stadium where 84 people were killed in a stampede prior to the start of a World Cup qualifier against Costa Rica last month, will not be used for matches.

Guatemala's two remaining world cup home games — against Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago — will be held in neighbouring countries.

A report from the FIFA disciplinary committee confirmed that all necessary security measures had been taken at the match between Zambia and Sudan on June 16 that claimed nine lives.

In an effort to avoid a similar tragedy, the World Cup qualifying match between Liberia and Tunisia on November 10 has been moved to Accra, Ghana because of the volatile political situation in Liberia.

FIFA also continued to push for a fence-free 1998 World Cup in France.

The decision on having all fences removed from French

stadiums will hinge on a report from a government study group due out next January.

"All French football is in favour of removing fences forever," said FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter, an outspoken advocate for the abolition of fences in stadiums. "But it will take time."

"It is a French government decree that clubs put up fences so first the decree must be changed."

The 1998 World Cup organising committee also confirmed that the final draw will be staged in the newly renovated stadium in Marseille on December 4 following a special match.

The two squads will be made up of one player each from countries qualified for the 1998 World Cup, 15 from Europe and 17 from the rest of the world.

But FIFA made no decision about reversing their stand that World Cup matches could be staged in the Kosovo Stadium in Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia.

Bosnia, who beat Italy 2-1 in the stadium in a friendly on Wednesday, will still have to play their World Cup matches in a neutral country.

FIFA spokesman Keith Cooper said: "The question of Bosnia was raised by the committee this morning, but it merely noted that Bosnia played its World Cup match in Bologna last month and no decision was taken to allow Bosnia to play home matches in Sarajevo."

Barcelona face Atletico without key players

BARCELONA (R) — Spanish pundits who only a few days ago saw Barcelona as firm favourites to take this weekend's top league clash are now backing champions Atletico Madrid.

The reason couldn't be more simple — Barcelona striker Ronaldo is injured.

The absence of Ronaldo with a leg muscle problem has radically changed Atletico's plans after a week when defender Juan Lopez became the centre of attention when he was given the unenviable job of marking the brilliant young Brazilian.

And while Atletico's set-piece King Milinko panic looks almost certain to play, Barcelona coach Bobby Robson is struggling to put together a side.

Defender Miguel Angel Nadal is suspended, while World Cup duty for Portugal has already deprived Robson of the only two players to hold a candle to Ronaldo this season, keep-

er vitor baia and winger Luis Figo.

Juan Pizzi will definitely take Ronaldo's place, but Robson is also without injured Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov, and might have to call upon brothers Roger and Oscar Garcia, who have hardly played this season.

Veteran club captain Jose Maria Bakero, who is set to join Mexico's Veracruz in the next few weeks, may even be given the opportunity to round off his career at Barcelona in style.

Robert Prosinecki, who had been seen as a possible starter in midfield, will miss the game because of a late call up for Croatia's game against Greece.

Barcelona's problems have dramatically increased Atletico's chance of turning round a poor start to the season.

Radomir Antic's side have won their last three games and moved up to sixth, but are still 10 points behind the leaders.

The change in fortune has coincided with the reappearance of influential playmaker Jose Luis Caminero.

Few Atletico fans will forget the role Caminero played in three victories over Barcelona that sealed their side's first-ever double last season.

Atletico completely outclassed Barcelona to take both league games 3-1, while the 1-0 defeat in the cup final heralded the end of Johan Cruyff's eight years at the Camp Nou.

Coach Radomir Antic thinks that his side are now playing at the same level as last year, but is worried that Barcelona's problems may force Robson to use excessively negative tactics.

"What bothers me is how to break a defence of eight men in the Camp Nou," said Antic.

Robson gave short shrift to the Serbian's comments.

"What the coach of a team that is 10 points behind us ought to do is shut up," said Robson.

One man who definitely won't shut up whatever happens is Jesus Gil. The controversial Atletico owner spent much of the week telling reporters of his affection for Ronaldo, and then how iron-man defender Juan Lopez would provide the 'antidote' to the dazzling Brazilian.

Lopez, who had turned up to training on previous days with a Rottweiler dog, now claims that he would have liked to have marked the Brazilian.

But most Atletico fans will be breathing sighs of relief at the absence of Ronaldo.

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- * والبرنامج الزمني الخاص بها وعمل الترتيبات
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- * السفارات
- * لديه اقامة قابلة للتحويل اذا كان غير سعودي
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* توفير العلاج الطبي

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قسم شؤون الموظفين

Pursue peace or risk losing prosperity, U.S. tells Israel

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior U.S. official warned Israel on Thursday that it risked losing its current prosperity unless it pursued the peace process with its Arab neighbours.

Under-Secretary of Commerce Stuart Eizenstat also charged that Israel was imposing a host of bureaucratic regulations that were "choking the economy" of Palestinian self-rule territories under the guise of protecting Israeli security.

Mr. Eizenstat told the Washington Institute, a Middle East think tank, it was "important for Israelis to understand" that the peace process had raised their standard of living, boosting foreign investment and keeping unemployment low.

"Israel is in effect open to the world, and the world is increasingly open to Israeli products, and it is the peace process which has created the enabling environment to make this possible," he said.

"This should never be taken for granted. It is a very precious flower that has to be nurtured, and it is important therefore that that process continue."

Mr. Eizenstat, who handles international trade issues, was speaking ahead of the third annual Middle East and North Africa economic summit, opening in Cairo on Tuesday, which will aim to pursue regional economic

integration. After some hesitation, Egypt decided to go ahead with the summit despite a widespread feeling in the Arab World that last May's election of right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister has put a brake on the peace process.

Negotiations between Israel and Syria have broken down, and Israel and the Palestinians are still arguing over details of a long-agreed plan for Israeli troops to partially withdraw from the West Bank town of Hebron.

Mr. Eizenstat said that while any country's security was paramount, "what is important here is to be able to separate what is legitimately a security issue from those issues which are in fact non-security issues, which are the result of protectionism, bureaucratic delays."

He cited several cases of difficulties experienced by Palestinians and Jordanians in doing business in the West Bank and Gaza because of capricious Israeli border controls.

"There are a whole host of restrictions on the flow of goods which need to be looked at in ways that separate out the legitimate security concerns from those devices which are simply choking the economy of the territories," he said.

Noting that the United States was providing Israel with \$100 million worth of security equipment over the next two years, Mr. Eizenstat said Washington hoped "that as that is put in place, that these delays will be mitigated."

He said the "very significant negative effect" on the Palestinian economy of the closure of borders between Israel and the occupied territories had created tensions in the peace process.

While Israeli leaders had stated they intended to tackle the problem, "my message would be it's important to deal with it sooner rather than later," he said.

"There needs to be a sense of urgency about this, and a sense of immediacy to it, and I hope that the Cairo summit will provide that sense of urgency and immediacy. There is an enormous amount of frustration," he added.

Mr. Eizenstat said armed clashes between Israelis and Palestinians in September were "unfortunately not a surprise to anyone who has spent any time in the territories and seen the economic straits and the lack of a peace dividend that is palpably felt there. The clashes, in which dozens of people were killed on both sides, erupted after Israel opened a tourist tunnel adjacent to Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem."



REFUGEES: Some 300 Rwandan refugees from the Inera camp are stopped by a rebel soldier as they walk through downtown Bukavu on their way home. The refugees, who left their camp 30 kilometres north of Bukavu one week ago after heavy fighting, spoke of hunger and sickness and said the rest of the tens of thousands of refugees from their camp were hiding in the Kahuzi National Park (see inside)

Jordan is ready to help build economy of Palestinians, Abul Ragheb says in Ramallah

RAMALLAH (J.T.) — Minister of Trade and Industry Ali Abul Ragheb on Friday reaffirmed Jordan's willingness to help the Palestinians and build Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

Mr. Abul Ragheb made the comments in a speech to an audience of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen which was held on the sidelines of a Jordanian trade fair held in Ramallah.

"Jordan will be the gate for the Palestinian economy. We should enhance cooperation among our private sectors, particularly among our

chambers of trade and industry as well as associations of businessmen in order to activate bilateral agreements," said the minister.

He added that the Jordanian trade fair familiarised the Palestinian businessmen with Jordanian products.

Such fairs are a great opportunity for Jordan to get close to Palestine in all aspects, especially political and economically, said the minister.

"Our peoples are twins and our relationship must be strengthened on all fronts,"

Mr. Abul Ragheb said.

President of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce Haidar Issa Murad told the gathering: "The Jordanian trade fair in the Palestinian territories with the participation of 106 Jordanian companies displaying electronic appliances, furniture, textiles, foodstuff and construction materials is aimed at expanding commercial and economic ties between Jordan and Palestine."

Mr. Murad called for exerted efforts on the two sides to increase joint investments in order to provide job opportunities and

to reconstruct the infrastructure in the Palestinian territories.

He also called for removing all obstacles obstructing trade and urged Jordanian businessmen to cooperate with their Palestinian counterparts.

He said that Jordan's exports to Palestine last year totalled \$40 million with an additional \$23 million in goods informally brought by visitors from the Palestinian territories.

On Thursday, Mr. Abul Ragheb visited the Orient

(Continued on page 7)

Bhutto is working on drive to retake power

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto prepared Friday to launch a two-pronged campaign to recapture power, fighting her dismissal in court and taking her case to the streets.

Ms. Bhutto said she expected to file a legal challenge next week to President Farooq Leghari's order toppling her government.

She promised to tour the country to whip up support for her Pakistan People's Party (PPP), now that the four-day-old caretaker government had lifted curbs on her movements.

"I am going to fight back," Ms. Bhutto told Reuters television in an interview late Thursday.

Ms. Bhutto was expected to meet advisers Friday to discuss the court challenge to Mr. Leghari's trenchant order, which she called illegal and unconstitutional.

"The lawyers are working on it and I hope to (file the challenge) some time early next week," she said. Mr. Leghari sacked Ms. Bhutto Tuesday with a pre-dawn proclamation that accused her government of rampant corruption and failure to stop rampant extra-judicial killings.

It was the fourth time in 11 years that presidents have used their authority to oust an elected government.

He then had the government in Pakistan's most industrialised province, Sindh, sacked and named an estranged uncle of Bhutto as caretaker chief minister.

Ms. Bhutto took solace from the supreme court's decision in 1993 to overturn a presidential order sacking former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, leader of the PPP's main rival, the Pakistan Muslim League.

That order contained accusations which were similar to Mr. Leghari's.

"I expect the supreme court to uphold the decision it gave in 1993 and restore the assembly," Ms.

Bhutto said.

Ms. Bhutto, who was confined to her official residence by security forces for nearly 36 hours this week before being released, said she intended to take her fight to the streets.

"I'll of course need to be touring the country a lot and I'll be doing that," she said, cautioning that there would be "agitation" if elections set for Feb. 3 were not fair.

Ms. Bhutto's dismissal poisoned already strained relations with Mr. Leghari, who had twice served in her cabinet and been hand-picked by the ousted prime minister. "Ultimately, he (Leghari) took this step because he wanted power," Ms. Bhutto said.

"The former comrades-in-arms of the PPP are preparing for a fierce battle against each other," the daily news said.

Ms. Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, remained in custody in an official residence near Islamabad.

Zardari, investment minister in Ms. Bhutto's cabinet, was detained without charge Tuesday in Lahore and transferred to the rest-house, where Ms. Bhutto was allowed to visit him in the early hours of Thursday. Ms. Bhutto said she was pleased to see he had not been tortured.

Ms. Bhutto said she believed that her detained husband would face fabricated charges in connection with the killing of her estranged brother, Murtaza, in September.

"I think they are holding him because they are trying to persuade my sister-in-law (Murtaza's widow Ghinwa) to file a case against him," she declared.

Ms. Bhutto said Zardari was being held by the military's inter-services intelligence, but had been placed in police custody Thursday under an order citing the maintenance of peace.

Zardari is at the centre of corruption allegations swirling around Ms. Bhutto's former government, but she said he had done nothing wrong.

SLA expels family of 8

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) — The Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia on Friday expelled a Muslim family of eight from the occupied border zone, police said.

Amnesty International, meanwhile, appealed for the release of Dr. George Halim Nakkid whom the SLA is believed to have imprisoned at their Khiam jail in Israel's so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The SLA escorted the family of Ali Khalil Nasrallah together with his wife and six children from their home in Hula village to a crossing between the zone and the rest of South Lebanon, police said.

The Syrian-backed Shiite Muslim Amal movement found temporary lodgings for the Nasrallah family in a village outside the border zone.

The parents told police they had been expelled because one of their sons refused to enrol in the SLA, a force of 3,000 men which is often accused of press-gauging young men.

Beirut already this week protested to an international group monitoring a ceasefire accord between Israel and its main foe in South Lebanon, the Iran-backed Hizbollah, over the expulsion of two other families from the zone.

France has been tasked with trying to secure their return through diplomatic contacts with Israel.

APC, Haifa Chemicals study \$60m joint project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Potash Company (APC) and an Israeli firm, Haifa Chemicals, are discussing a \$60 million joint venture to produce raw materials for the Israeli company, one of the largest in the Jewish state, industry sources said Friday.

"Preliminary talks have started but it cannot be said that they have reached the stage of actual negotiations," said one source. "However, there seems to be enough strong interest on both sides that could lead to the eventual realisation of the project."

A spokesman for Haifa Chemicals, one of the leading producers of fertiliser potassium nitrate, was quoted as saying on Thursday by Reuters that the joint venture would be for the setting up of a plant to produce raw materials for the Israeli firm's plants in Haifa on the Mediterranean coast and at Mishor Toteim in the Naqurah desert.

The sources could not provide more details of the discussions. The APC has an exclusive concession to extract minerals from the Dead Sea, which contain at least 35 distinct elements. It was not immediately known which specific elements were under discussion between Haifa Chemicals and the APC.

The APC and Israel's Dead Sea Works have already launched a \$90 million joint venture to produce bromine on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea. Israel is providing the technical know-how and Jordan is offering the infrastructure, raw materials and management. It will be the third largest producer of potash, and the bulk of the output of bromine will be bought by a U.S. firm.

His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who paid a one-day visit to Jordan on Wednesday, visited the plant site and were briefed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on plans to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. APC Director-General Sulaiman Howari presented details of the joint venture as well as the ongoing production activities of the APC.

During the visit to the plant, King Hussein and President Weizman also opened a cross-border road to allow employees to move freely between the APC and Israel's Dead Sea Works, reports in the Israeli press said.

The opening of the road came as a spontaneous decision, said a report in the Jerusalem Post. "When it was pointed out that although 10 kilometres separate the sites, the workers have to drive almost to (Aqaba) to cross the border, both (King) Hussein and (President) Weizman spontaneously suggested that the old patrol road linking the two sites be reopened," the Post reported.

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His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who paid a one-day visit to Jordan on Wednesday, visited the plant site and were briefed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on plans to develop the Jordan Rift Valley. APC Director-General Sulaiman Howari presented details of the joint venture as well as the ongoing production activities of the APC.

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The opening of the road came as a spontaneous decision, said a report in the Jerusalem Post. "When it was pointed out that although 10 kilometres separate the sites, the workers have to drive almost to (Aqaba) to cross the border, both (King) Hussein and (President) Weizman spontaneously suggested that the old patrol road linking the two sites be reopened," the Post reported.

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Ensour and Nasser Lawzi meet Iraqi vice-president

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two members of the Council of Ministers have held talks with Iraqi Vice-President Taha Mohaideen Marouf, who arrived here on Wednesday en route to Italy, and there could be other meetings, official sources said Friday.

Government officials described Mr. Marouf's four-day stay in the Kingdom as a private visit, but it was expected that he would hold high-level talks here before leaving for Rome to attend a Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) meeting dubbed "Food Summit" this week.

Among those who met with Mr. Marouf over the weekend were Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour and Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi, the sources told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Marouf and his entourage are staying at the Guest Palace in what was seen as an indication that he was on an official visit to the Kingdom.

The talks were seen as a follow-up to discussions that an official Jordanian delegation representing the Ports Corporation held with senior Iraqi officials in Baghdad last month. During that meeting, the Iraqi government said it would give priority to Aqaba as the main port for its imports under an oil-for-food agreement reached with the United Nations.

Mr. Lawzi was quoted as saying after the meeting that "we discussed ways of cooperation." He did not elaborate.

The oil-for-food agreement, signed in May by the Iraqi government and the United Nations, is now expected to be implemented early next year after a delay caused by Iraqi troop movements in the north of the country in late August and early September. Those movements were reported to have caused fear for the safety of U.N. inspectors scheduled to be posted in north Iraq and hence the delay.

Several private sector delegations have also visited Iraq in recent weeks and have reported positive response to their quest for a good share of the expected Iraqi business under the oil-for-food accord.

Mr. Marouf is the first senior Iraqi official to visit Jordan after a strain in Amman-Baghdad ties caused by Jordan's decision to grant shelter to Hussein Kamel and his brother, both sons-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and their wives in August last year.

Jordan has reduced the volume of a trade protocol signed with Iraq — from around \$400 million in 1995 to \$220 million in 1996 — but is encouraging the private sector to do business with Baghdad.

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Hepburn say farewell to N.Y.

OLD SAYBROOK, Connecticut (AP) — Katharine Hepburn has said goodbye to New York City — she's found her golden pond in Connecticut. "She'll never go back to New York. She has a good setup at her family home here," her brother-in-law, Ellsworth Grant, said Wednesday. The 89-year-old actress, the winner of four Academy Awards during a 60-year career, recently put her New York apartment up for rent, and she has been enjoying looking out at the water at her coastal Connecticut retreat. She has no life-threatening diseases but "has the disease of old age," Grant said. "She walks a little, talks a little. Her memory is pretty much gone," he said. "She could live like she is for five years or more or she could die tomorrow." Miss Hepburn starred in "The African Queen," "On Golden Pond" and numerous other films.

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On Thursday, Mr. Abul Ragheb visited the Orient

(Continued on page 7)

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Palestinian leader
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'The Lion King'
goes Broadway
NEW YORK (AP) — Fans of "The Lion King" can soon find their favorite Disney-animated film on stage and not just on a video store shelf. A stage adaptation of "The Lion King" will open on Broadway next fall with director Julie Taymor, known for her inventive, puppet-filled extravaganzas like "Juan Darien" and "The Green Bird." "It will be a very visual show," Ms. Taymor said Wednesday. "I am inventing things for this show that I've never done before." An opening date has not been set — casting was under way. The show, which features over 50 performers, will play for eight weeks in Minneapolis next July before coming to New York. The Broadway score will take the five songs from the film and add new material written by Elton John and Tim Rice, and selections from the recording "Rhythm Of The Pride Lands," which the movie inspired.

Low-grade bureaucrats die younger — study
LONDON (R) — Civil servants who never make the grade and do not get perks such as cars are more likely to die soon after retirement than their bosses, British researchers reported. The findings add to a growing body of evidence linking socio-economic status with health. Michael Marmot and Martin Shipley at University College London's Medical School studied more than 18,000 men who worked in the British civil service. They found those in lower grades died sooner after retirement than those who reached higher rank. "Overall, 30 per cent of men in the administrative grade died during the 25-year follow-up compared with 69 per cent of men in the lowest grade," the two wrote in the British medical journal, "Lack of ownership of a car was associated with a 57 per cent higher mortality before retirement and 34 per cent higher mortality after retirement."

Man eaten by lions after drinking bout
MIDDELBURG, South Africa (AFP) — A 35-year-old man was devoured by lions on a game farm near here when he wandered into the bush after a bout of drinking with his friends, police said Friday. Elphas Siwela was visiting friends on a game farm near South Africa's famed Kruger Park Sunday night when he was killed and eaten by a pride of five lions, a police spokesman told the SABA news agency. The lions were later tracked down and shot, and fragments of Siwela's clothing and human bone were found in their digestive tracts.

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